



Public Health Emergency Preparedness Fact Sheet

IATA routinely works with governments, its airline members, and other stakeholders including the World Health Organization (WHO) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on various public health initiatives concerned with aviation, including:

- Promoting proactive guidelines for airlines regarding suspected communicable diseases
- Participating in the Aviation Sector group coordinated by ICAO to manage communicable disease outbreaks (COVID-19, Zika, Ebola, plague and others)
- Participating in WHO working groups on aircraft disinsection (insecticide treatment) and disinfection
- Monitoring illnesses such as COVID-19, influenza and MERS-CoV to quickly implement a public health emergency response plan if required.
- Preparing and maintaining medical emergency guidance materials (accepted by WHO) for front-line airline staff, including cabin crew, maintenance workers, cleaners, passenger agents and cargo/baggage handlers
- Working on important documents for managing COVID-19, Influenza A (H1N1) and other public health emergencies
- More information at: www.iata.org/communicable-diseases

Hygiene on board

- Airlines have equipment and measures in place to keep the cabin environment safe.
- Modern aircraft have a cabin air system which delivers approximately 50% outside air and 50% filtered, recirculated air. The recirculated air employs high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters that have a similar performance to those used to keep the air clean in hospital operating rooms and industrial clean rooms. These are effective at capturing greater than 99.9% of the airborne microbes in the filtered air. Aircraft air supply is essentially sterile and particle-free providing between 15 to 20 cubic feet of total air supply per minute per person in economy class - although any environment with people in close proximity allows the possibility of transfer of organisms directly from one person to another
- IATA cooperated with aircrew representatives in the production of the [ICAO Guidelines on Education, Training and Reporting of Fume Events](#)
- Aircraft are regularly disinfected as part of normal cleaning routines.
- Crew are trained in handling procedures for passengers who might become ill on board.

IATA also collects and publishes emerging government health-related requirements to industry, governments and the traveling public through the IATA Travel Centre at www.iatatravelcentre.com