

Regional Aviation Medicine Team (RAMT)



Technical Arm of CAPSCA

Report to SCM CAPSCA & Core Working Group

Regional Aviation Medicine Team(s) (RAMT)

Meets once per year

No formal membership

Any stakeholder can contribute

Project coordinator(s) will attend RAMT

Airport evaluators will attend RAMT

Regional Aviation Medicine Team

RAMT

Terms of Reference

- Review of ICAO Guidelines for States
- Interpretation of Guidelines for applicability in region
- Suggestions for improvement
- Provision of ongoing planning advice to States esp. in the aviation sector
- Actions if an outbreak of a disease of public health concern occurs

Conceptualise and Form the RAMT

2nd RAMT

12 Sept. 2008: ICAO Regional Office, Bangkok

Screening methods: There is currently no single screening measure that provides the requisite sensitivity and specificity and a combination of measures may be required depending upon the prevailing situation.

States should be cognizant of the fact that the **quarantine of large numbers of airline passengers is unlikely to be justified, is not practical and may be difficult to implement.** After the acute phase, it is also not likely to prevent, in any significant way, the spread of a pandemic by aviation.

May not be possible for States to completely prevent the spread of an evolving pandemic. However, with the appropriate measures, it may be **possible to delay and mitigate the effects of such an emerging pandemic.** The production of the relevant vaccine remains the best chance to mitigate the high morbidity and mortality usually associated with a pandemic.

The **use of prophylactic anti-virals by flight and cabin crew is not routinely recommended**. Should an airline wish to advocate the use of anti-virals by its flight and cabin crew, due consideration should be given to the side effects of these, including the cognitive and behavioural side effects that have been reported.

States are encouraged to subscribe to and when required, implement the WHO Rapid Containment Plan for dealing with the initial emergence of a cluster of human cases affected by a novel influenza virus.

States should, as part of their Pandemic Preparedness plan, **develop business continuity models and put in place a clear risk communication coordination strategy**.

There is **no evidence to support the cleaning and/or disinfecting of baggage including items arriving from areas where avian influenza has been reported**. This would include the checked-in bags of a suspect case of communicable disease on board a flight.

The **use of remote stands at airports for aircraft arriving with case/s of suspect infectious disease on board in flight, is not recommended**.

Based upon the available evidence, it was accepted that, **upon the identification of a case of a suspected communicable disease on board an aircraft in flight, the passengers seated in the same row and two rows in front and behind, in addition to any other close contact, should be designated as “contact” cases** for the purpose of contact tracing and appropriate public health measures on arrival and/or the presentation of health information.

There is **no evidence to indicate that the use of disinfectant mats at airports, for arriving passengers to step on, is relevant for events relating to transmission of human disease**

The **IHRs (Annex 1B) clarifies the core capacity requirements** pertaining to transport facilities needed to manage public health emergencies. This applies to the **designation of ambulances** for the transport of cases of infectious disease from a flight.

CAPSCA Americas

RAMT

When?

Where?

How many RAMTs?

One English, one Spanish?

Suggestions

- Probably two RAMTs (English/Spanish)
 - Depends on commitment
- Project coordinators:
 - Deputy Regional Directors, ICAO Regional Offices, Mexico City and Lima
- RAMT coordinator
- Airport evaluators
 - Six requested; 3 English speaking, 3 Spanish speaking
 - T & S costs for evaluators met by project

CAPSCA Americas

RAMT

Proposal:

First RAMT associated with first airport evaluation-possibly Peru, late November or early December 2009

Combine with OJT for airport evaluators

States are requested

- To volunteer airport evaluators/RAMT coordinators to the project
 - Aim is to evaluate at least one international airport per State
 - Not an audit – a ‘training evaluation’
 - 2010 will require several evaluations
 - Project may be extended beyond 2010