Air Contact Investigations and Contact Tracing

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Objectives

- Share purpose of air contact investigations/contact tracing
- Discuss CDC contact investigation process
  - List diseases requiring flight-related contact investigations (if certain criteria met)
  - Describe criteria that determine whether to initiate contact investigation and which individuals to contact
  - Discuss process of partnering with local, state, and international public health partners to contact and follow up with individuals as necessary
Purpose of Air Related Contact Investigations

- Identify contacts of a traveler who was possibly contagious during a flight
- Notify, educate, and evaluate travelers about their potential exposure in a timely manner
- Provide post-exposure prophylaxis, or other treatment, as appropriate
### Diseases Requiring Flight-Related Contact Investigations (United States, CDC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarantinable Diseases</th>
<th>Non-Quarantinable Diseases</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Infectious tuberculosis (TB)</td>
<td>- Measles</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Novel influenza virus or other emerging infectious disease</td>
<td>- Rubella</td>
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<td>- Smallpox</td>
<td>- Meningococcal Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>- SARS</td>
<td>- Pertussis</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Pneumonic Plague</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHF)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Diphtheria</td>
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*Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fevers, Ebola/Marburg, Lassa fever/Lujo disease, South America arenaviruses*
Criteria to Determine Whether to Initiate Air Contact Investigation (United States, CDC)

- Confirmed illness
  - Based on both infectiousness and severity
- Length of time between report of illness and flight
- Duration of flight
  - Based on limited research on infectiousness of certain illnesses over certain periods of time
- Recommendations may vary from different countries and international organizations
Air Contact Investigation Process

1. Receive report of suspected case
2. Is case confirmed?
3. Was case infectious during travel?
4. Is contact investigation indicated?
Air Contact Investigation Process, Continued

1. Obtain flight information
2. Identify passenger and crew contacts
3. Interview contacts
4. Follow up

Example of Seating Chart and Contacts Identified for Suspect Ebola

- Red X indicates index case
- Blue C indicates contact
Resources

- **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**
  - Air Transport and Communicable Diseases:
    [http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/safety/health/Pages/diseases.aspx](http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/safety/health/Pages/diseases.aspx)

- **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control**
  - Infectious Diseases on Aircraft:

- **International Civil Aviation Organization References**

- **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
  - Investigating Contagious Diseases on Flights: [http://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/contact-investigation.html](http://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/contact-investigation.html)