

# PUBLIC HEALTH CORRIDORS

18 May 2020

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## ICAO EUR/NAT

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Training, Workshops &  
Webinars



# RD Brief

## I. WELCOME

ICAO is encouraging the establishment of special COVID-19-free Public Health Corridors (PHCs) to address the “extensive and varied” country-to-country border restrictions now in place due to national pandemic measures.

In order to overcome the current disruptions to international air movements that have affected the transport of essential items such as medical supplies and food, the ICAO Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) has recommended that PHCs be established specifically for COVID-19.

Further PHCs provisions in aid of humanitarian, repatriation, and scheduled passenger operations will be developed within the scope of ICAO’s Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART), in collaboration with the aviation industry and public health authorities.

With this brief, we hope to bring you relevant information as part of a series of initiatives launched this month by the EUR/NAT Office to better support our 56 States during the COVID-19 crisis.

Enjoy the reading,

Silvia Gehrler

## II. CAPSCA & Public Health Corridors (PHC)

Since 2006 and following the SARS outbreak, ICAO established the Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA, <https://www.capsca.org/>). Behind this difficult, almost cryptic name, there is a need and a simple idea: bridge civil aviation and public health sectors to build together the necessary capacities in States to prepare for and manage public health emergencies. In that sense, international, regional, national and local organizations come together to combine efforts to improve preparedness planning and crisis management to public health events that affect the aviation sector, such as communicable diseases (e.g. SARS, pandemic influenza, MERS, Zika, Ebola, COVID-19). This voluntary, cross-sectorial, multi-organizational programme is managed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in close partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) under the regulatory framework of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and WHO International Health Regulations (IHR).

CAPSCA main objectives are:

- ✚ Public health protection - the general public, air travelers and aviation personnel;
- ✚ Assistance missions to States to establish or assess national aviation pandemic preparedness plans;
- ✚ Adherence to Article 14 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation;
- ✚ Compliance with related ICAO SARPs (Annexes 6, 9, 11 and 14) and the Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Air Traffic Management (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444);
- ✚ Compliance with WHO IHR (2005) regulations;
- ✚ Implementation of ICAO, WHO, Airports Council International (ACI) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) guidelines;
- ✚ Cooperation amongst civil aviation authorities, public health authorities, airports, air traffic services, and airlines;
- ✚ Regional cooperation amongst States and Territories - a mechanism for pooling and sharing expertise and resources;
- ✚ Training of airport evaluators, evaluation of airports, development of core capacities, and provision of advice to States;
- ✚ Further development and improvement of guidelines for the aviation sector;
- ✚ Support States during crises.

In addition to providing multi-sector seminars and workshops on preparedness planning in all ICAO regions, **CAPSCA arranges assistance missions to States and international airports**. These joint ICAO/WHO visits by aviation and public health experts facilitate training for aviation and health professionals who are involved in public health event planning in the aviation sector. During these visits, **all elements of preparedness plans that have been developed locally and/or nationally are reviewed, and improvements suggested**. The visit normally takes two days, it is usually on a cost-recovery basis, and a confidential report is provided that may be used by the State for future preparedness plan development/improvement. An annual regional seminar is held in each of the five CAPSCA regions: Asia Pacific, Africa, Americas, Europe, and the Middle East, bringing together professionals from both the public health and the aviation sector.

## Public Health Corridors

As aviation has almost come to a complete halt due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, it is essential to find a way in which to resume the international aviation system and reestablish connectivity, taking into consideration public health requirements. Therefore, the CAPSCA Programme has developed a risk-based strategy known as the Public Health Corridor Concept. This strategy describes how to handle, from an aviation perspective, essential flights at first (and then commercial flights will follow) that would allow mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on civil aviation, while keeping flight safety as the first priority.

These Public Health Corridor key elements, developed by the multidisciplinary CAPSCA experts group, ensure, as far as possible, the use of "clean" crew, "clean" aircraft, and "clean" airport facilities to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 through air travel. The key elements include the implementation of both operational and health measures. As the COVID-19 pandemic is rapidly evolving, these guidelines aim to address the following concerns of States for the essential flights:

1. when the crew are dispatched on international flight operations, how do we prevent them from transmitting the virus amongst themselves; contracting COVID-19 when they are staying abroad during a layover, and importing the virus when they return;
2. when allowing the crew to enter, or re-enter the State, how do we prevent the crew from transmitting the virus to the local community and creating new clusters of transmission, and vice-versa; and how to manage crew when they exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 on arrival or develop symptoms during a layover.

The Public Health Corridor guidelines for Cargo operations have been published and disseminated to all States through the ICAO Electronic Bulletin: EB 2020/30 on 11 May 2020.

## CAPSCA Q&A

### What has CAPSCA been delivering this past month?

A CAPSCA-EUR focal points teleconference was organized on 28/04/2020 with the participation of the ICAO Chief of Medicine Section and WHO. Thirty-five participants from the CAPSCA-EUR network attended, and they were updated on COVID-19 issues and Public Health Corridors concept and guidelines.

A CAPSCA-EUR officers' teleconference was organized on 29/04/2020 to coordinate COVID-19 related activities. It was agreed that the next CAPSCA-EUR meeting would be organized with the support of WHO and EASA from 14-16 October 2020 in Cologne, Germany (hosted by EASA).

Daily CAPSCA updates, including guidance material made available by ICAO or other Organisations, and regional restrictions due to COVID-19, are disseminated to the ICAO EUR/NAT States' focal points and the CAPSCA-EUR network.

### How can you join the CAPSCA teleconference calls to keep yourself updated?

There is no fee, nor any associated fee, to join and be a member of the CAPSCA programme. Thirty-one EUR/NAT States are already CAPSCA members.

Send your application letter by email to the CAPSCA EUR Coordinator, Mr. Sarantis Poulimenakos, [icaoeurnat@paris.icao.int](mailto:icaoeurnat@paris.icao.int).

Check the latest CAPSCA COVID-19 updates [here](#).  
And also, follow us on the website and register for the newsletter.

## III. EUR/NAT TRAINING, WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS

ICAO Public Health Corridors (PHC) Webinar on 11 May 2020 (recorded) click [here](#)

EUR/NAT COVID-19 Updates/ CAPSCA EUR click [here](#)

EUR/NAT events schedule click [here](#)

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## THE EUR/NAT Team



Photograph was taken on the occasion of the ICAO Secretary General, Dr. Fang Liu's visit to the EUR/NAT Office in Paris to attend the Meeting of the Directors General of Civil Aviation of the ICAO European and North Atlantic Regions (EURNAT-DGCA/2019), 19 to 20 March 2019.

From left to right (top row): Berk Bozkurt (secondee), Arnaud Desjardin, Jérémie Masson, Masha Meyer, Inga Jgenti (consultant), Jürgen Lüdorf, Catherine Daly, Isabelle Hofstetter, Leyla Suleymanova, Oguzhan Hasdeniz (secondee), Frédéric Brosseau, Natalia Savvina, Carolyne Ottieno, Cornelia Lüdorf, Sven Halle, Séverine Foure, Benoit Brunette, Celso Figueiredo, Christopher Keohan, Sarantis Poulimenakos.

From left to right (bottom row): Mihaela Brunette, Florence Benjamin, Sebastian Kacprzak, Elkhan Nahmadov, Dr. Fang Liu, Silvia Gehrler, Patricia Cuff, Rime Saidi, Blandine Ferrier.

Not present: Abbas Niknejad, Arkadii Merkulov and Carolina Ramírez (consultant).

*The next RD brief will circulate during the week of 1 June 2020. The focus will be on PHC for commercial operations and outreach activities organized by the EUR/NAT team to support States on this emerging topic during the COVID-19 crisis.*