

# WHO COVID-19 Support to Points of Entry in the Eastern Mediterranean

Country Health Emergency Preparedness &  
International Health Regulations (IHR)  
WHO Health Emergency Programme  
WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean



# COVID-19 at PoE - Regional Overview (1)

- Suspension of air travel and closure of borders in March 2020, currently various degrees commencement of international commerce
- All countries have been actively engaged in supporting repatriation, humanitarian, essential travel activities.
- Some countries have restrictions barring entry to those flying from certain countries or with recent travel history suggesting there have been dedicated assessments deeming these locations posing an unacceptable risk.
- Almost ALL countries are performing basic screening on passengers regardless of their origins for both entry and exit screening purposes – temperature assessment and questionnaires have been reported as the most common modalities
- Most countries have prepared facilities and procedures to further assess entering passengers who may appear symptomatic



# COVID-19 at PoE - Regional Overview (2)

- Virtually all countries in the EMR are now requiring negative PCR certificates for incoming passengers, having this document serves as a prerequisite to boarding
- Varying windows of test validity, ranging from 48-120 hours, are utilized – contingent upon different destinations.
- In doubt when assessing passenger’s health status, in accordance with risk associated recent travel, or in a few cases while awaiting test results, most countries have correspondingly stipulated quarantine – most prefer home quarantine
- All countries reported systematically following up with arriving passengers. Most reported following passengers to check on their sign and symptoms for an entire incubation period of 14 days post arrival
- No country has reported honouring “Immunity Certificates” as an exemption to testing or to allow entry



# Challenges

- Compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR)
- Availability of operational plans/guidelines/SOPs
- Risk assessment approach & PoE's role
- Electronic systems & real time data
- Balancing public health & economic repercussions
- Human resource capacity, resources & investments
- Coordination amongst sectors and stakeholders
- Complex environments
- Cross border collaboration & sharing lessons learned



# WHO COVID-19 Guidance at Points of Entry

## Management of Ill Passengers at PoE

*Detection, Interview, Report, Isolate & Case Management*

### AIRPORTS

- Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases or outbreak in aviation

### SEAPORTS

- Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases or outbreak on board ships
- Promoting public health measures in response to COVID-19 on cargo ships and fishing vessels

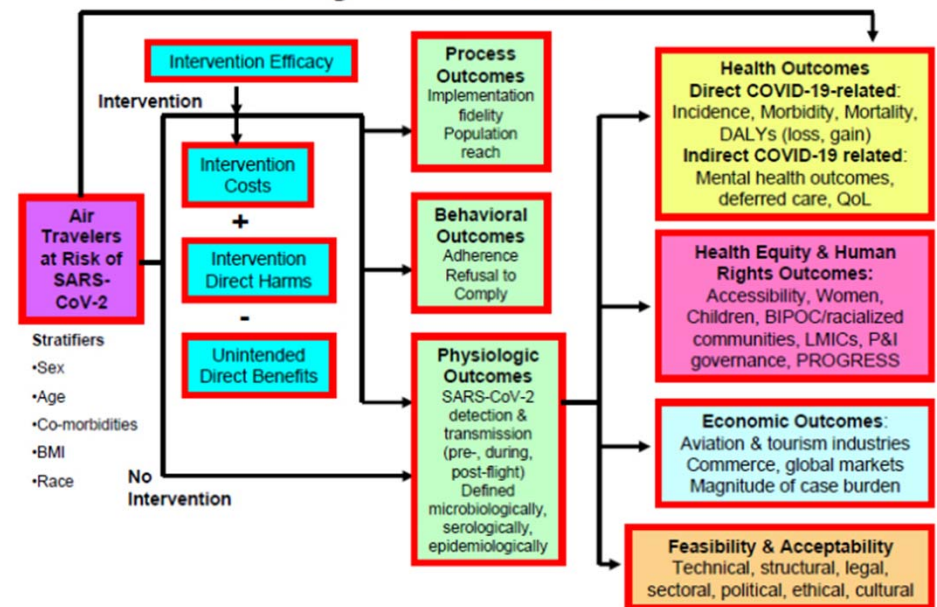
### GROUND CROSSING

- Controlling the spread of COVID-19 at ground crossings

# Evidence to recommendations: COVID-19 mitigation in the aviation sector

ITH Steering Group drafted a list of the most urgent COVID-19 and aviation questions around which guidance was needed and formatted them according to the standard "PICO"2 framework

## Analytic Framework

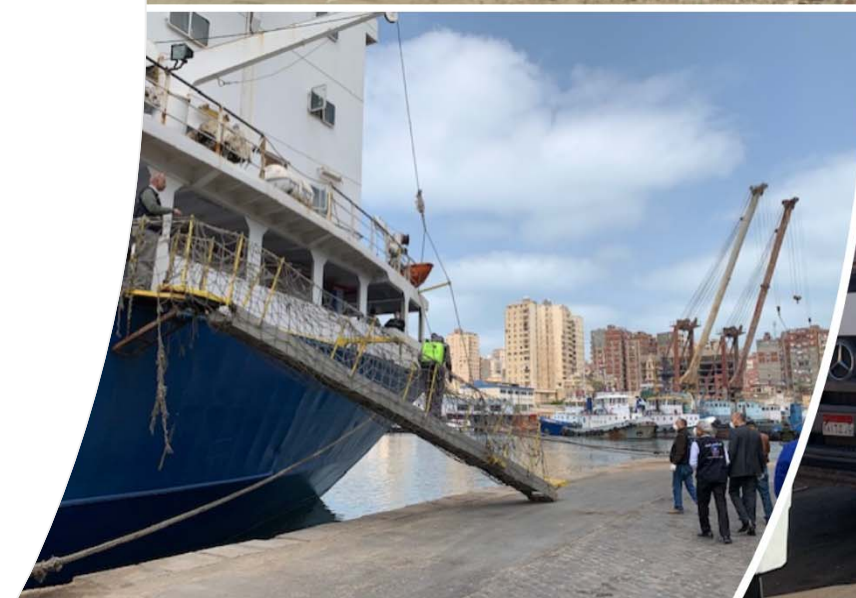


## Questions to be addressed by the ITH GDG

- 1 What is the effectiveness of **a. hand hygiene, b. physical distancing, and/or c. wearing a mask** (with or without a face shield and/or eye protection) alone or in combination, in preventing SARS-CoV-2 transmission between air travellers?
- 2 What is the effectiveness of a maintained, tested, and **functional environmental control system (ECS)** while aircraft passengers are on board in preventing SARS-CoV-2 transmission to air travellers?
- 3 What is the effectiveness of **disinfection/cleaning protocols** (on-board, airports) in preventing SARS-CoV-2 transmission to travellers during air travel?
- 4 What is the effectiveness of **screening by observation, temperature check, and/or health declaration forms** of air travellers (passengers and/or crew) on departure and/or arrival in preventing the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 to air travellers?
- 5 What is the effectiveness of **various approaches to isolation and/or monitoring and/or quarantine of air travellers** (passengers and/or crews) on arrival in preventing the importation and transmission of SARS-CoV-2 into destination country?
- 6 What is the effectiveness of **microbiological detection (PCR and/or rapid diagnostic testing and/or “sniffer” dogs)** of SARS-CoV-2 pre-departure and/or upon arrival in air travellers in preventing the on-board transmission and/or importation of SARS-CoV-2 into the destination country and impact on quarantine duration?
- 7 What is the effectiveness of **contact tracing** in preventing the international transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from infected aircraft passengers?
- 8 What is the effectiveness of **risk communication** in preventing the international transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from aircraft passengers?
- 9 What is the effectiveness of **suspension of commercial air transport and/or restricted access to air arrivals** on rates of SARS-CoV-2 transmission?

# EMRO Support to Points of Entry

- Cross Border Collaboration Initiatives
  - EGY/SUD, AFG/PAK, PAK/CHINA, etc.
- Regional PoE Working Groups & Collaborations
  - IOM PoE Data Collection
  - ICAO & Civil Aviation
  - EMR Regional Expert Group
- Country-Specific Portfolios
  - HR Mapping for PoE
  - Curriculum Development
  - PoE Surveillance
  - Contingency Planning
  - Assessments & Trainings
  - Risk Communication





# Strategic COVID Support to Points of Entry

- EMR Operational Guidance for Resumption of Passenger Traffic
- PoE Rapid Diagnostic Tool for COVID/Resp. Illness
  - Testing/Feedback in DJI, JOR, PAK, AFG, SUD
- EMR Modification/Restructuring of PoE Physical Premises Guidance
- Case Studies for Points of Entry Lessons Learned
- Expert Roster for PoE Professionalism



# EMR PoE Travel Measures Dashboard

- Captures select travel measures regarding quarantine, Screening, Testing, Tracing of Travellers
- Represents country specific data entered by national counterparts – weekly snapshots
- Available to EMR counterparts in real time



Filter in section	Value
International Commercial Opening	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Quarantine # days	<input type="text"/>
Quarantine Home Isolation	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Quarantine Institutional	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Restrictions	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Screening Entry	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Screening Exit	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Testing PCR	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Testing PCR Window of Validity	<input type="text"/>
Testing Rapid or Other	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Tracing # days	<input type="text"/>
Tracing Application	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Tracing Follow-up (Calls/Visits)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No



**Thank You**

