ICAO and prevention of spread of disease

Dr Anthony Evans
International Civil Aviation Organization
Montreal

Lima, Peru, April 2009
Plan

• Prevention of Spread of disease
  – ICAO actions
  – International Health Regulations
• Transmission of disease on-board aircraft
• First Aid and Medical Kits, Universal Precaution Kit
• Aircraft Disinfection and Disinsection
• Summary
Passengers of Hong Kong International Airport, January to August 2003

- 12 March, WHO Atypical pneumonia alert
- 2 April WHO travel advisory
- 23 May Travel advisory lifted

Courtesy: Dr Henry Kong, Chief Port Officer, Hong Kong
WHO global influenza preparedness plan
The role of WHO and recommendations for national measures before and during pandemics
Questions – local outbreak

- 35% reduction of staff for 8 weeks
- Aircraft diversions
- Advice to passengers regarding risk
- Advice to workers regarding risk
  - PPE, training
- Source of advice
- Traveller screening
- Traveller follow-up
- Tamiflu/vaccinations
- Sudden demand to leave area
- Recommendation to reduce aircraft operations
  - WHO containment strategy
Questions – inbound suspected case

• Notification of PHA
• Parking area
• Advice to travellers
• Holding area for travellers
• Laboratory diagnostic facilities
• Transport to hospital
• PPE and training for staff
• Follow-up of passengers
• Cleaning/Disinfection of aircraft
ICAO Council determined action was needed
Basis for Action

Article 14, International Convention on Civil Aviation:

‘Each contracting State agrees to take effective measures to prevent the spread by means of air navigation of cholera, typhus (epidemic), smallpox, yellow fever, plague, and such other communicable diseases as the contracting States shall from time to time decide to designate....’
Web-based guidance
http://www.icao.int/icao/en/med/medFAQ_en.html#health

WHO global Preparedness

ICAO state guidelines

Airports Council International Airport guidelines

International Air Transport Association Airline guidelines

IHR (2005)
Cooperative Arrangement for Prevention of Spread of Communicable disease by Air travel - CAPSCA

• Three main aims
  1. Populations
     • Mitigate the risk from pandemic
  2. Travellers (passengers and crew)
     • Reduce risk of spread on board aircraft
  3. Commerce
     • Mitigate the financial impact from an outbreak or pandemic
• Training & Airport Evaluations
IHR (2005)

- Entered into force June 2007
- Points of Entry
- Routine and contingency measures
• ‘8.16. A Contracting State shall establish a national aviation plan in preparation for an outbreak of a communicable disease posing a public health risk or public health emergency of international concern’
Fever (38°C/100°F or greater) plus one or more of the following signs or symptoms:

- Appearing obviously unwell
- Persistent coughing
- Impaired breathing
- Persistent diarrhoea
- Persistent vomiting
- Skin rash
- Bruising or bleeding without previous injury
- Confusion of recent onset
Annex 9 - Facilitation

- Public Health Passenger Locator Card

![Public Health Passenger Locator Card Image]
Annex 9 - Facilitation

- Pilot-in-command to notify ATC as soon as he is aware of a suspected case of communicable disease on board.
CURRENT SITUATION:
AIRLINE NOTIFICATION OF EVENT

AIRLINE
OPERATING
AGENCY

AIRPORT

PHA
Annex 11 – Air Traffic Services
Annex 14 - Aerodromes

• ‘Public Health Emergencies’ to be included in Contingency/Emergency Plans
  – Applicability date 19 November 2009
Other work: (1) On-board Medical Supplies

Annex 6 – Operations. Applicability, 19 November 2009

• Updated:
  – First Aid Kits
  – Medical Kits

• New
  – ‘Universal Precaution Kit’ (one or two to be carried per aircraft)
  – Protection for cabin crew
  – Equipment to mop up spills
  – Germicidal wipes
Other work: (2)
Aircraft disinsection, with WHO

- Review of methods
- Non-chemical

Photographs courtesy of WHO
Other work: (3)

Aircraft disinfection, with WHO

- Revision of:
  - WHO Guide to Hygiene and Sanitation in Aviation

Guide to Hygiene and Sanitation in Aviation
Third Edition

Geneva
August 2008

World Health Organization
Summary

• ICAO’s role
  – Convention on International Civil Aviation
• Web-based guidance
• CAPSCA project
• ICAO Standards
• Other work
  – On-board medical supplies; disinsection; disinfection
Don’t forget bird flu

New outbreaks raise pandemic fears again
ICAO and prevention of spread of disease

Dr Anthony Evans
International Civil Aviation Organization
Montreal

Lima, Peru, April 2009
Research on the Transmission of Disease in Airports and on Aircraft: A Symposium
Transportation Research Board of The National Academies
17-18 September 2009, Washington

- Understanding How Disease Is Transmitted via Air Travel
- Respiratory Diseases (SARS, TB case studies, airflow modelling)
- Blood Borne Diseases (Universal precautions)
- Gastrointestinal Diseases (Norovirus investigation, infection control techniques)
- Vector Borne Diseases (airport malaria)
- Discussion of Future Research Needs