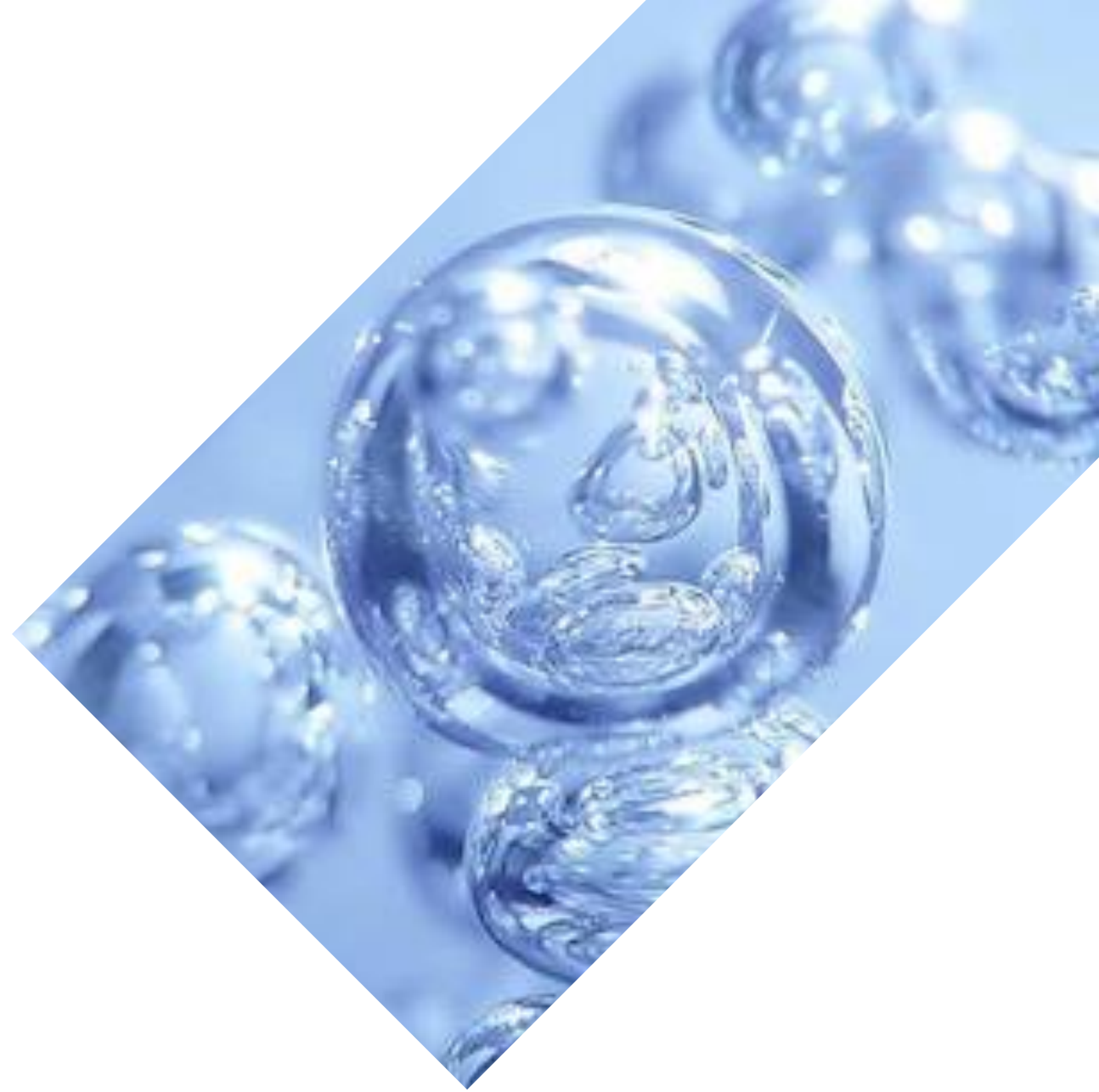


Travel Bubbles

An information paper



Disclaimer

- The information to be presented is to stimulate discussion on the topic
- It does not represent IATA's position on the issue or recommendation
- Many of the concepts in the paper are open to interpretation
- The paper does not attempt to address all the issues and considerations
- Its options presented are a work in progress and may not have been fully thought through

What and why

A State level agreement that enables international air travel between 2 countries **by reducing the restrictions or conditions** compared to those that apply to travel from/to other non-travel bubble countries.

The fundamental requirement of a travel bubble is the **elimination of the need for mandatory quarantine for 14 days** at designated location or self-isolation.

Also, depending on the situation, there may not be a need for COVID testing on departure or arrival and certainly not both (duplication of testing).

COVID Transmission Levels (CTL)

There is no universally accepted classification of a country's COVID Transmission Level (CTL) or health situation.

Development of a **commonly accepted methodology** for classifying CTL levels will greatly assist in bilateral and eventually multi-lateral or regional discussions.

CTL classification

No transmission

Medium

High

Key principles

There is little justification for implementation of any extraordinary restrictions such as quarantine, self-isolation or testing for travel **between 2 countries with equivalent CTLs, OR from a lower CTL to higher CTL country.**

It is practical to implement some restrictions for passengers from a higher CTL country travelling to a lower CTL country.

Countries deemed to be high CTL would inevitably result in the implementation of quarantine or self-isolation measures which would probably make them ineligible to be considered for travel bubbles.

Travel Bubble matrix

From ↓	To →	No	Medium	High
No	Minimal or no restrictions needed	Minimal or no restrictions needed		
Medium	Some restrictions needed	Minimal or no restrictions needed		
High				

Basic Travel Bubble

- **No quarantine or self-isolation** requirements on arrival
- **No specific testing requirements** on arrival or departure
- Basic screening on departure and arrival (during the active phase on this pandemic)
- Contact tracing and health declarations in line with ICAO standards
- Aircraft and crew operations in line with ICAO CART guidelines

Limited Travel Bubble

- **No quarantine or self-isolation** requirements on arrival
- **Testing (or medical certificate) requirements prior to departure**
- Basic screening on departure and arrival (during the active phase on this pandemic)
- Contact tracing and health declarations in line with ICAO standards
- Aircraft and crew operations in line with ICAO CART guidelines

Additional Considerations

- Passenger scope
- Transit Traffic
- Multilateral travel agreements
- Sub-national agreements
- Duration and reviews

Steps to form a Travel Bubble

- Inter-ministry/agency involvement (Transport, Health, Foreign Affairs, Security, Immigration)
- Stakeholder engagement with airlines and airports
- Determination of travel demand – inbound and outbound
- Bilateral discussions with potential country partners
- Mutual agreement on respective CTLs
- Mutual agreement on restrictions including contact tracing, declarations
- Lead time for airport and health facilities preparations
- Lead time for airline scheduling and marketing
- Public awareness and education