

# IATA update on Aviation Restart and Recovery

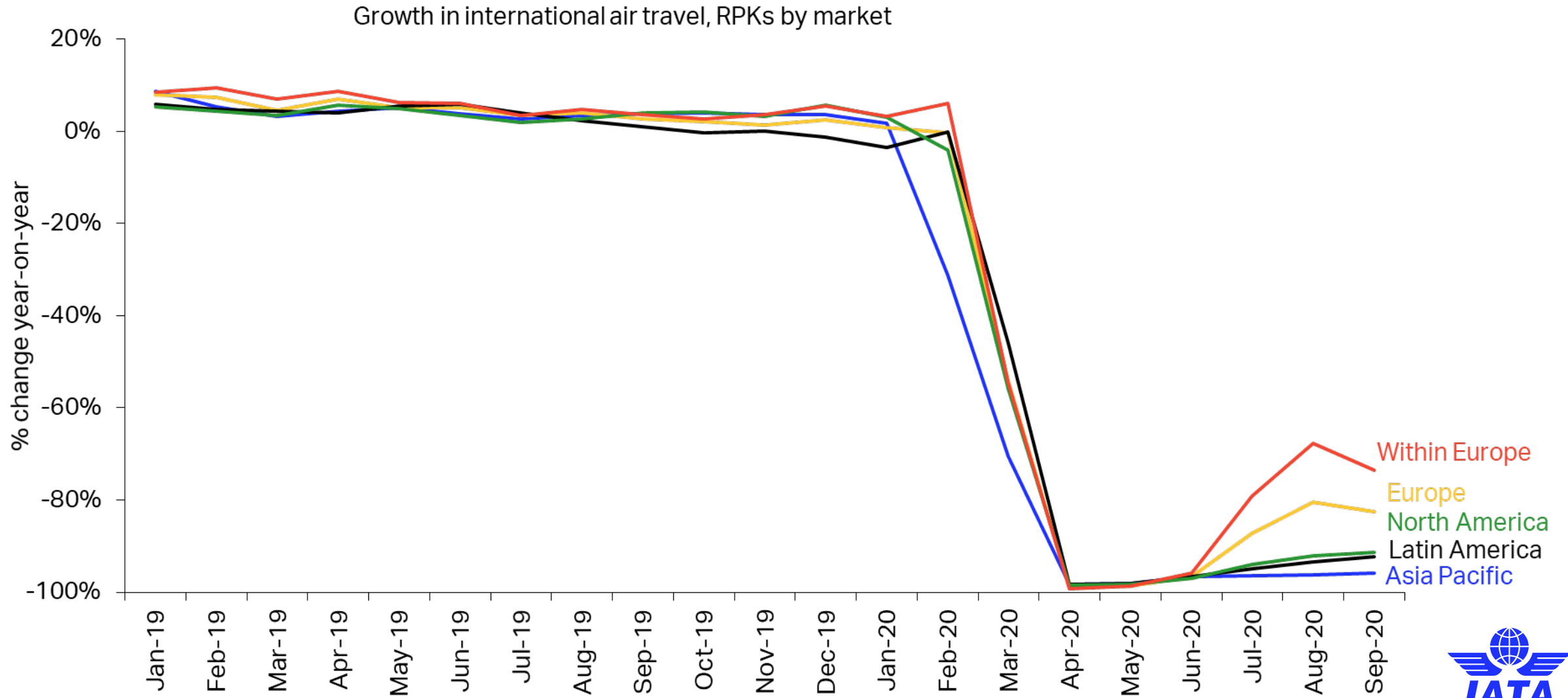
ICAO Third COVID-19 Information  
Sharing Teleconference Session

8 December 2020



# International traffic in Asia Pacific worst performing

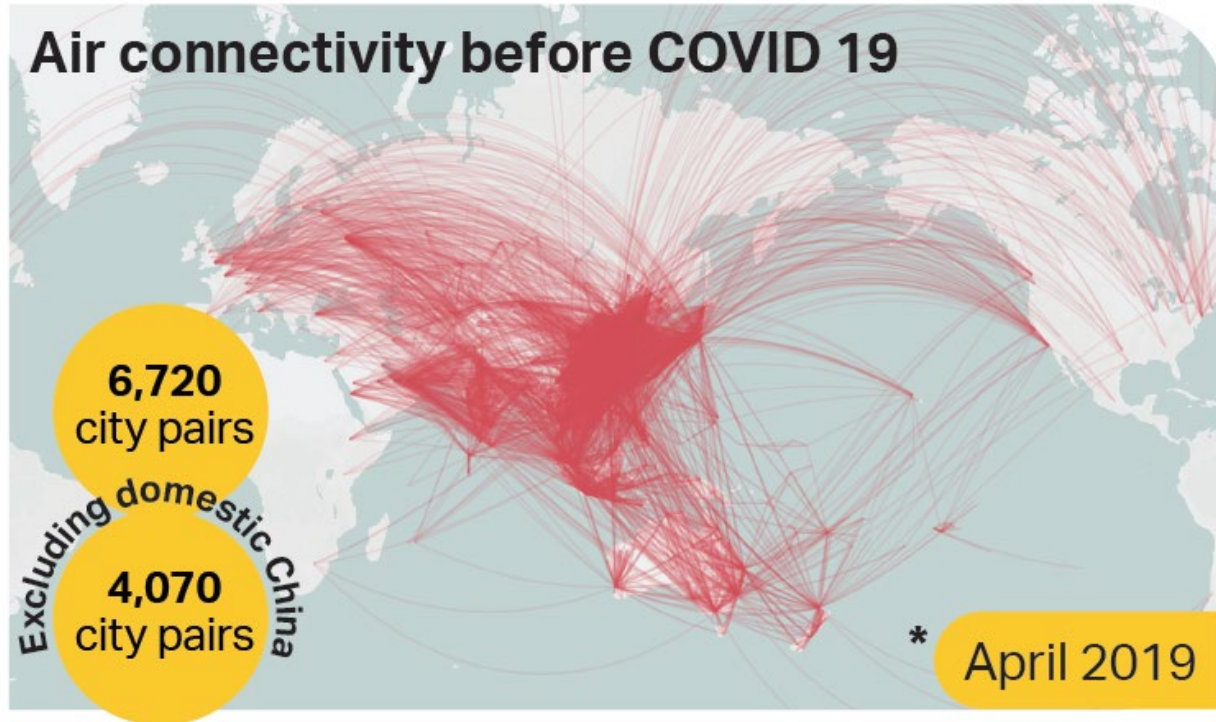
## Resurgence of COVID-19 stopped further progress



Source: IATA Monthly Statistics

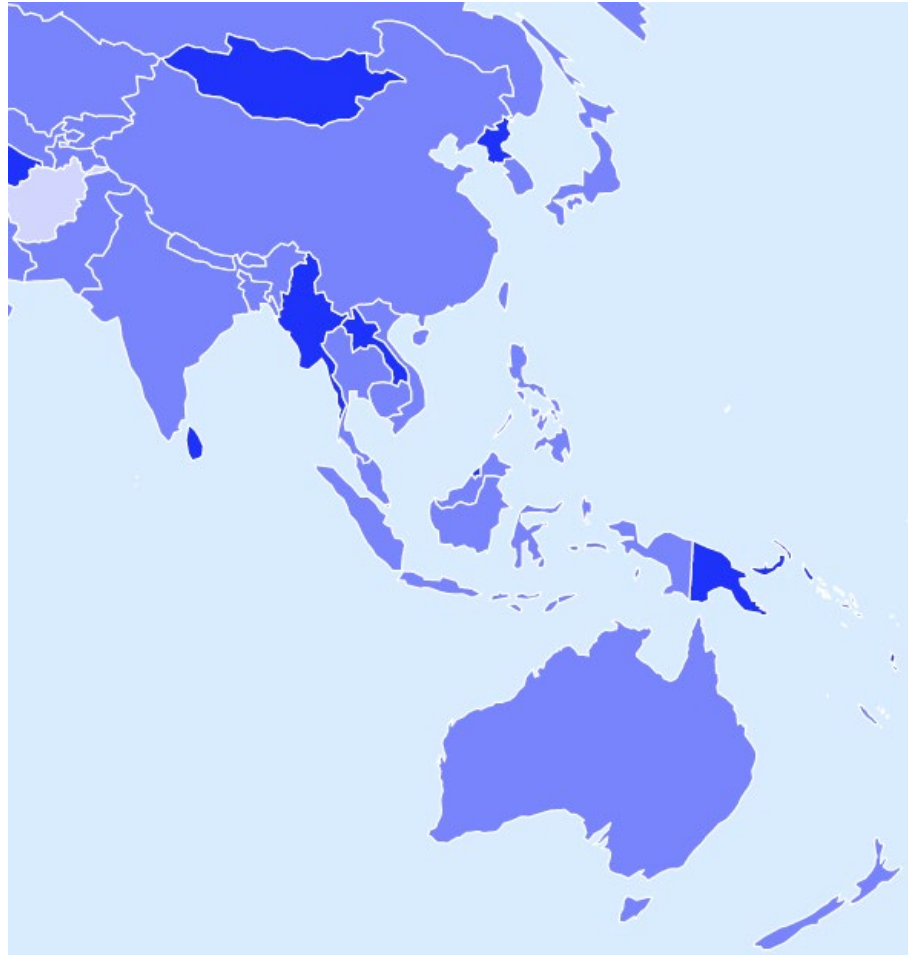




# Air connectivity in Asia Pacific has been seriously disrupted by COVID-19



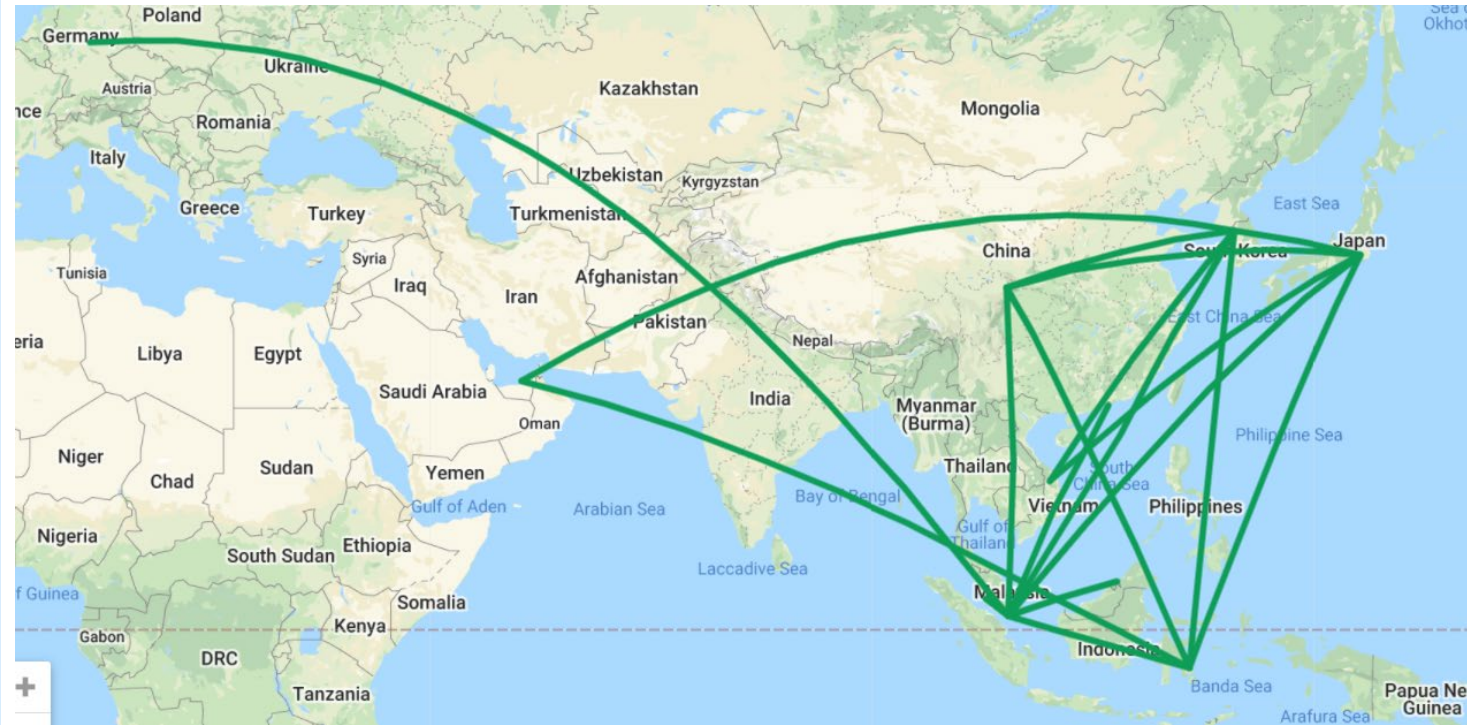
# Traffic continues to be impacted by restrictive borders

## 25 countries/territories with travel restrictions



 Totally Restrictive  
 Partially Restrictive

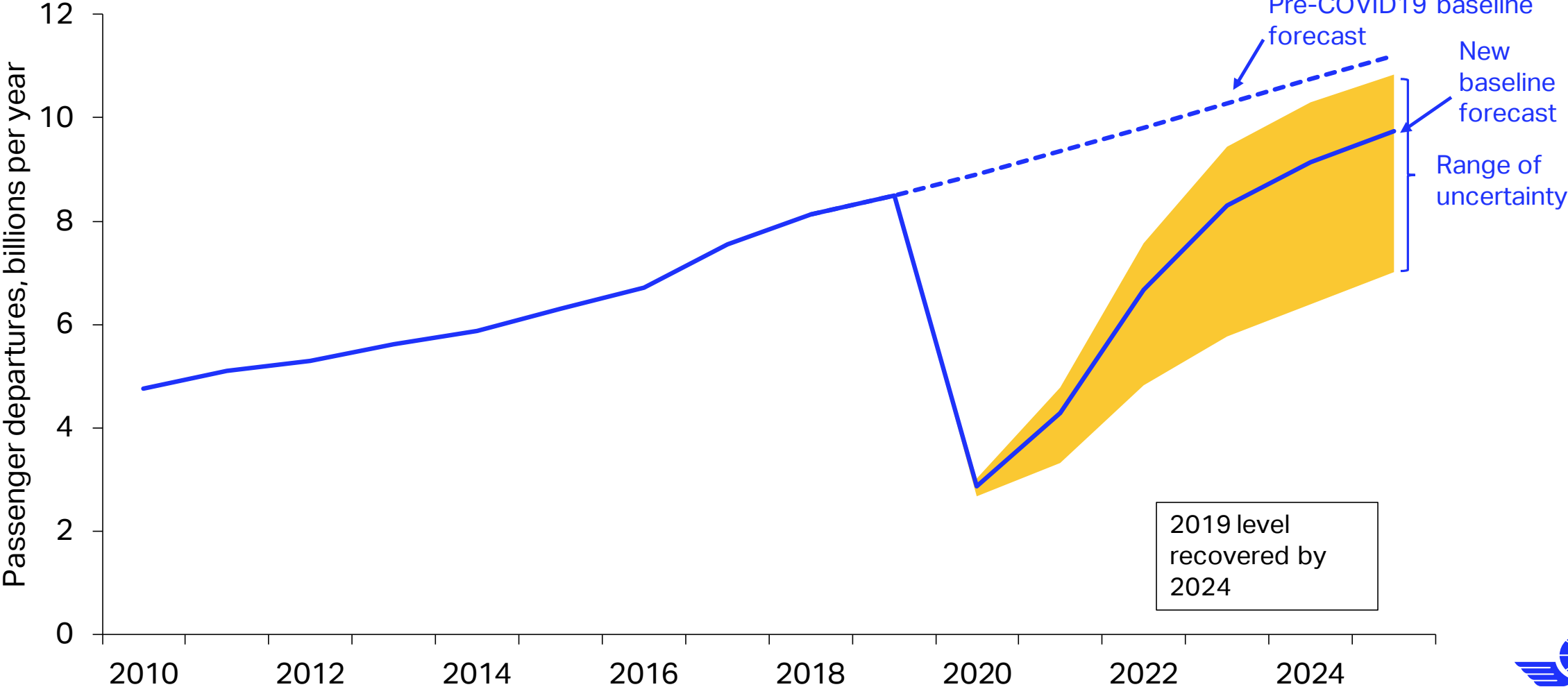
### Overview of Asia Pacific Travel Corridors



# Vaccine news positive but recovery will still take time

## Issues with vaccine implementation and the impact of economic damage

Global RPKs departures, billions per year

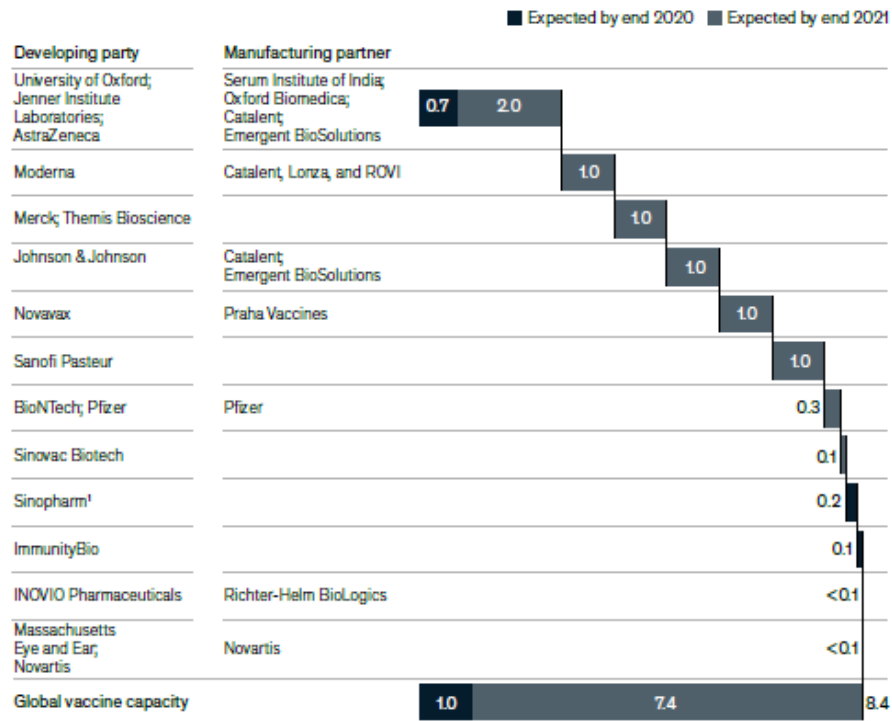


Source: IATA/Tourism Economics 'Air Passenger Forecasts' October 2020

# Vaccine roll-out may take 12-24 months.

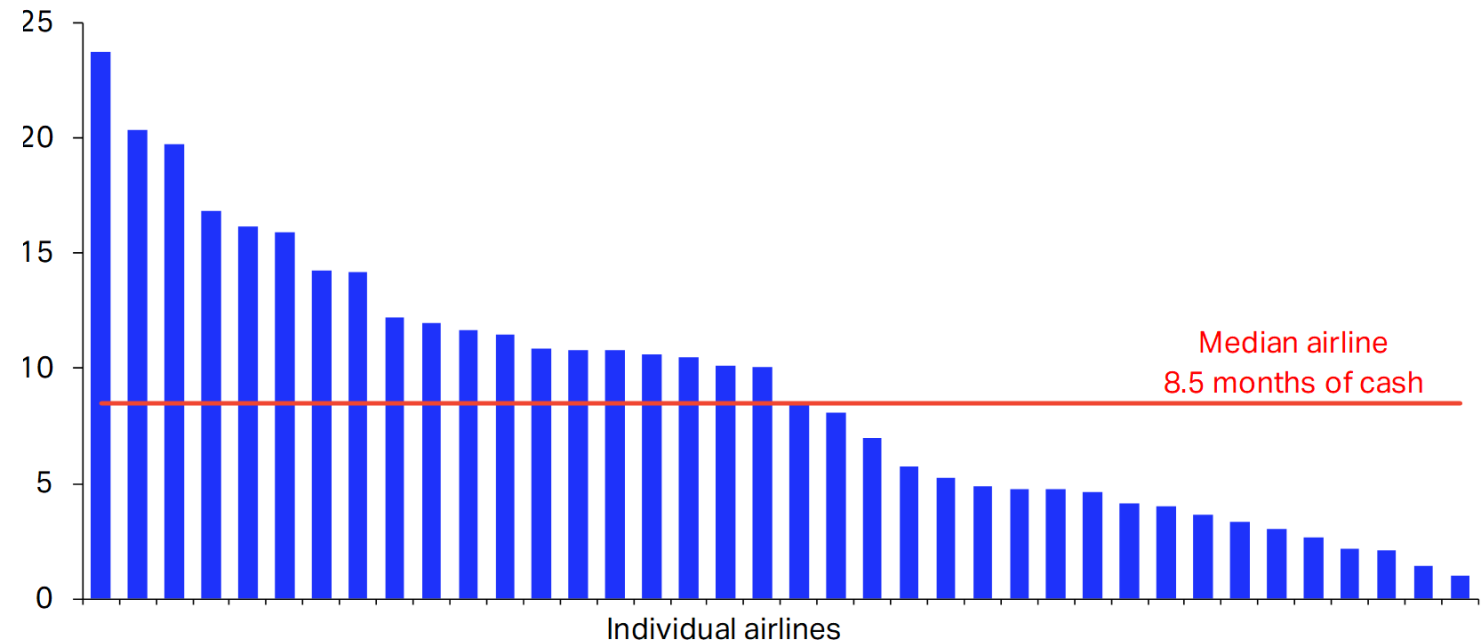
Vaccine unlikely to be widely available until mid-2021. Airline will have run out of cash

Announced manufacturing capacity for vaccine candidates, billions of doses



<sup>1</sup>China National Pharmaceutical. Source: BioCentury; ClinicalTrials.gov; Milken Institute COVID-19 Treatment and Vaccine Tracker; press search

2020 end June cash+cash equivalents/2020 H2 monthly cash burn



Source: McKinsey

Source: IATA Economics using data from the Airline Analyst

## Waiting for widespread vaccination is not an option



# Assess overall impact of multi-layer mitigation

## Practical recommendations for COVID-19 Risk Assessment:

- Assess overall impact of multi-layer mitigation as a package, do not assess individual measures in isolation
- Factors to take into account:
  - Relative infection rates in countries of departure and arrival
  - Traffic volumes between 2 countries
  - Effectiveness of mitigation measures
- Suggested output metric:  
Imported infections vs healthy passengers

Temporary multi-layered biosafety measures to protect health and safety, and ensure that air travel is not a meaningful vector for the spread of COVID-19



# COVID Risk assessment principles

## **WHO:**

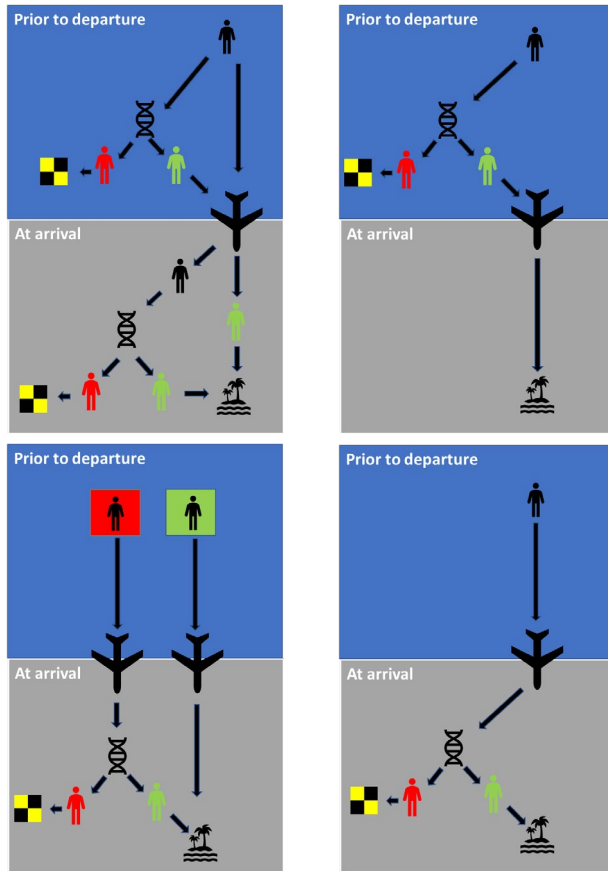
- Air travel itself has been significantly de-risked
- Border reopening requires a trade-off between benefit and risk
- There is no zero-risk

## **Considerations for border reopening:**

- Establish the baseline level of risk
- Determine the impact of risk mitigation measures; Consider mitigation measures holistically, not individually
- Identify secondary risks (e.g. false positive cases) and unintended consequences
- Calculate residual risk:
  - Relative to the baseline risk
  - Residual incidence of arriving pax vs incidence within arrival country
  - Expected number of infected passengers / total arriving passengers

# Testing as an alternative to quarantine

## Various requirements:



## Growing adoption, dynamic situation:

- The number of National or regional authorities relying on testing to replace/reduce quarantine requirements is growing
- Requirements are regularly revised to adapt to risk assessment
- Rapid testing (molecular and antigen) increasingly available at airport

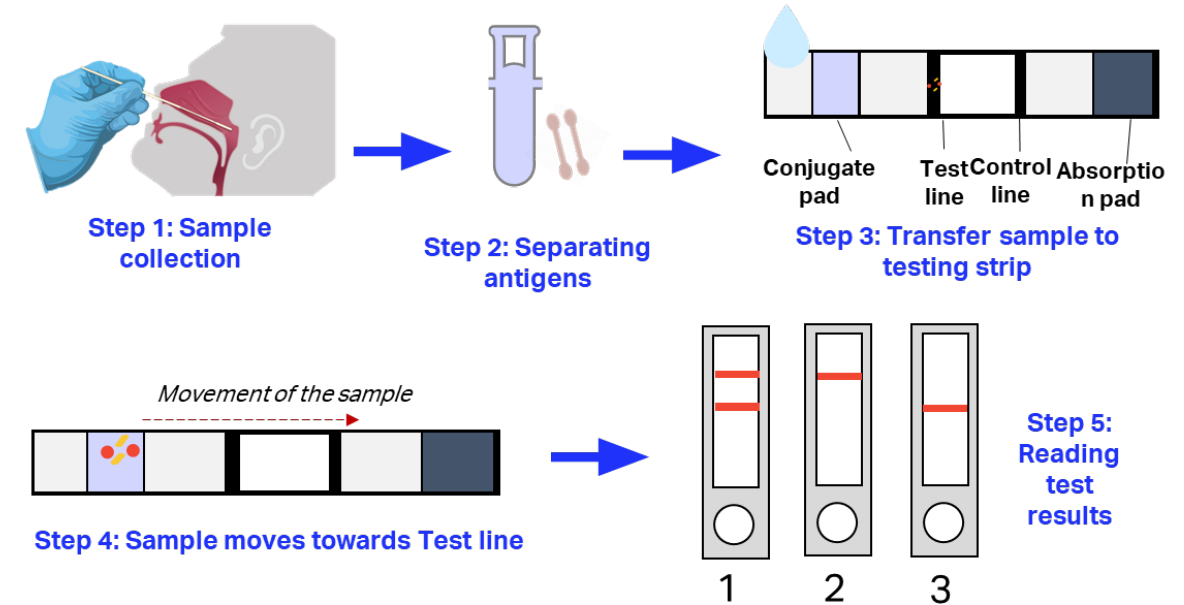
## Lessons learned:

- Standardization of test result required (format and content)
- In pre-departure model, some ability to test at arrival is required to avoid unnecessary entry refusal
- Registration process for testing can become the process bottleneck

# Use most rapid test available

## Test as close to travel as practical

- Rapid testing with high accuracy level is appropriate for a screening context, such as international travel. RT-PCR is too slow and expensive.
- Rapid antigen tests are affordable and increasingly being used for screening of asymptomatic populations in the community.
- If testing is carried out prior to departure, it should be as close to departure as possible to make the travel environment 'COVID Clean'.
- New and even faster technologies are in development. These should be considered for use in a travel setting to limit queues and delays



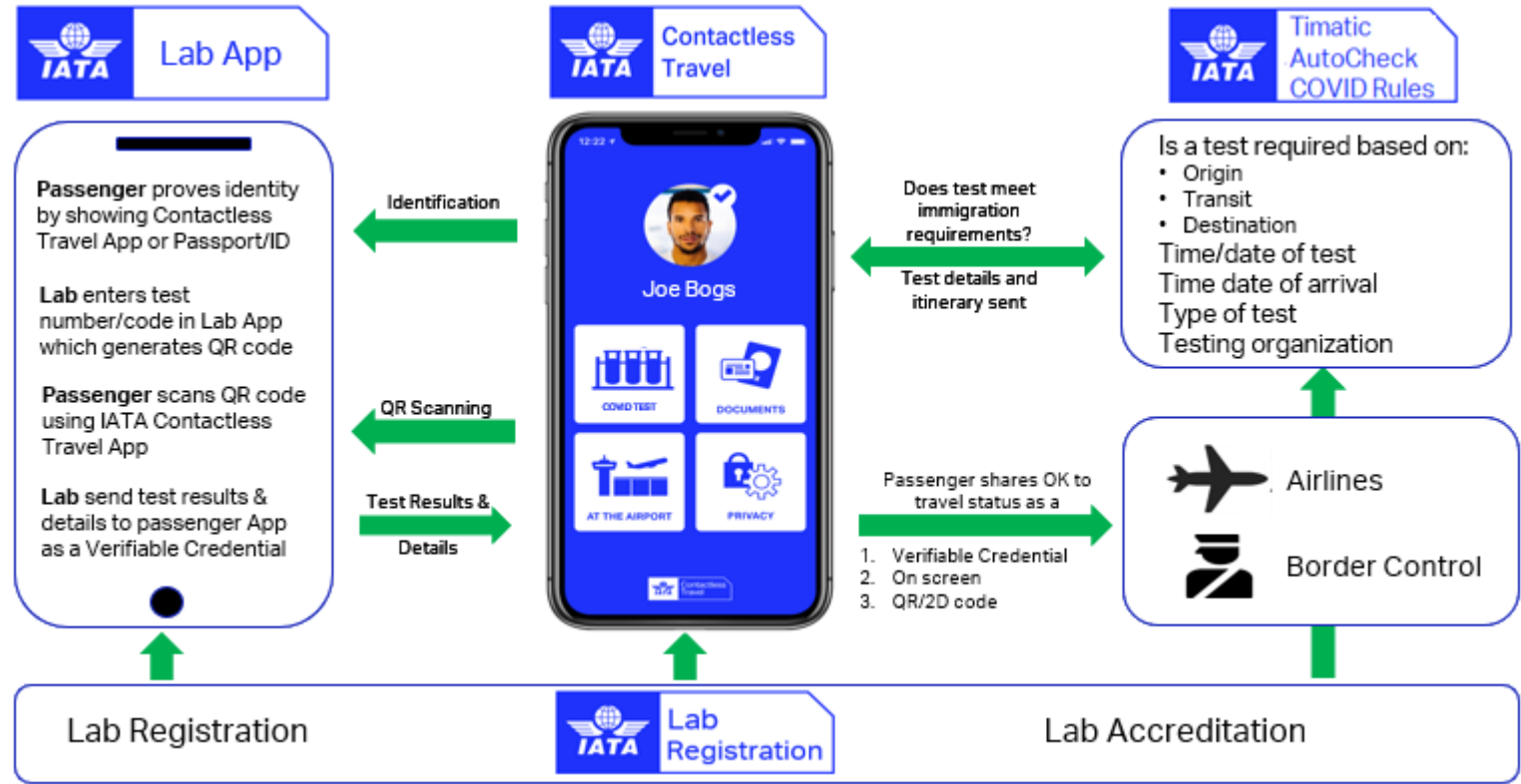
# Standardized global approach to health credentials

Trust is critical for mutual recognition of test results and, in due course, vaccination certificates.

There is a need for a standardized approach to health credentials and health passports.

IATA supports a framework based on common standards and an agreed set of data elements.

Multiple solution providers can provide products and services, as long as they are interoperable.








# Use data from trials to develop and refine protocols

## Base policy decisions on real-world data - do not rely modelling studies

- Governments, airlines and airports around the world are running dozens of trials and pilots – these represent a valuable learning opportunity
- Where modelling studies are used, they should use the latest real world data to guide input assumptions

## Dimensions to consider

|   |   |
|---|---|
|    | Testing method and operator             |
|    | Performance: Accuracy and speed         |
|    | Logistics: Location and scalability     |
|   | Cost: How much and who pays?            |
|  | Standards, Certification and Validation |

# A plan for safely reopening borders

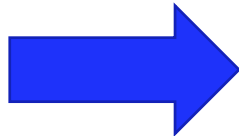
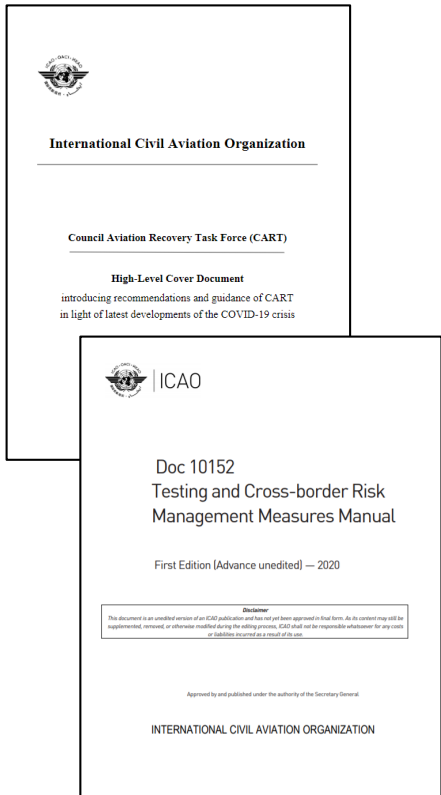
## **There is an urgent need to reopen borders:**

1. Vaccine roll-out may take 12-24 months. Waiting for vaccine not an option
2. Air travel environment is very safe: biosafety measures highly effective
3. Quarantine costly to run, a brake on travel. Home isolation ineffective
4. Systematic testing can reduce importation risk to very low levels
5. International travel is safer than other activities which have restarted

## **There are practical steps that States can take to reopen borders safely:**

1. Assess overall impact of multi-layer mitigation, not individual measures
2. Compare risk to benefits of reopening and relative to in-country risk
3. Use most rapid test available. Test as close to travel as practical
4. Use data from trials to develop and refine protocols, not modelling studies
5. Adopt a standardized global approach to health credentials

# Open Borders without quarantine

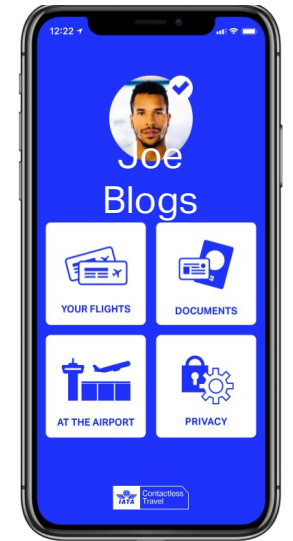


|            |            | Impact                 |                                   |  |                           |
|------------|------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
|            |            | 0<br>Acceptable        | 1<br>Tolerable                    | 2<br>Unacceptable                              | 3<br>Intolerable          |
| Likelihood | Improbable | Little or No Effect    | Effects are Felt but Not Critical | Serious Impact to Course of Action and Outcome | Could Result in Disasters |
|            | Possible   | Risk Unlikely to Occur | Risk Will Likely Occur            |  |                           |
|            | Probable   | Risk Will Occur        |                                   |  |                           |

Risk Assessment



Systematic Testing



Automated verification of test certificate



IATA's Safely Reopening Borders – A Practical Guide: <https://www.iata.org/en/programs/covid-19-resources-guidelines/reopening-borders-documents/>

IATA Travel Pass: <https://www.iata.org/en/programs/passenger/travel-pass/>

# Thank you

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