

Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly updates

*(recommendations from IHR Review
Committee, Emergency Committee and
Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness
and Response related to international travel)*

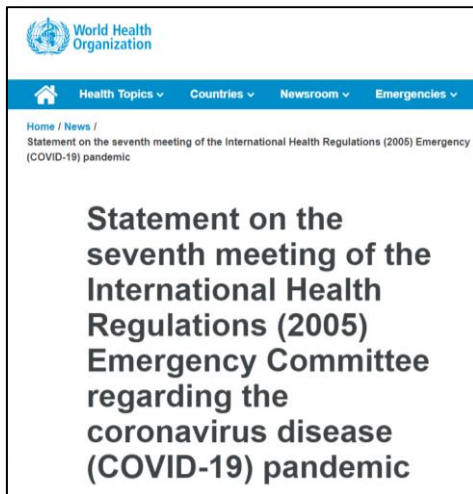
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Current Temporary Recommendations under the IHR - 7th Emergency Committee - 15 April 2021

Recommendations for State Parties

- Implement coordinated, time-limited, risk-based, and evidence-based approaches for health measures in relation to international traffic in line with WHO guidance and IHR provisions.
- **Do not require proof of vaccination as a condition of entry**, given the limited (although growing) evidence about the performance of vaccines in reducing transmission and the persistent inequity in the global vaccine distribution.
- States Parties are strongly encouraged to acknowledge the potential for requirements of proof of vaccination to deepen inequities and promote differential freedom of movement.



[https://www.who.int/news/item/19-04-2021-statement-on-the-seventh-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-coronavirus-disease-\(covid-19\)-pandemic](https://www.who.int/news/item/19-04-2021-statement-on-the-seventh-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)-pandemic)

Current Temporary Recommendations under the IHR - 7th Emergency Committee - 15 April 2021

Recommendations for States Parties

- **Prioritize vaccination for seafarers and air crews** in line with the [Joint statement on prioritization of COVID-19 vaccination for seafarers and aircrew](#). Special attention should be paid to seafarers who are stranded at sea and who are stopped from crossing international borders for crew change due to travel restrictions, including requirements for proof of COVID-19 vaccination, to ensure that their human rights are respected
- **Reduce the financial burden on international travelers** for the measures applied to them for **the protection of public health** (e.g. testing, isolation/quarantine, and vaccination), in accordance with Article 40 of the IHR.
- **Share information with WHO on the effects of health measures** in minimizing transmission of SARS-CoV-2 during international travel to inform WHO's development of evidence-based guidance.

Current Temporary Recommendations under the IHR - 7th Emergency Committee - 15 April 2021

Recommendations for **WHO**

- Update guidance on **risk based approach to international travel**, taking into consideration COVID-19 vaccination roll out, immunity conferred by past infection, risk settings, movements of migrants, temporary workers, and purpose of travel (non-essential versus essential)
- Continue to **coordinate with relevant stakeholders** in the fields of international travel and transport, including **ICAO, UNWTO, and IATA**, for the **regular review, updating, and dissemination of evidence-based guidance** on travel-related risk reduction measures.
- Continue to **update the WHO interim position** on the considerations regarding **requirements of proof of vaccination** and to produce interim guidance and tools related to standardization of **paper and digital documentation of COVID-19 travel-related risk reduction measures** (vaccination status, SARS-COV-2 testing and COVID-19 recovery status) in the context of international travel.

IHR Review Committee made specific recommendations on travel measures

- State Parties are advised to apply a **risk-based approach** to implementing additional health measures in response to public health risks and acute public health events.
- Regular and **frequent risk assessments and re-evaluations** of measures in place should be conducted based on WHO advice.
- Travel measures may help delay the spread of virus in certain settings. However, **long term effects** of these measures need **to be considered in between public health gains and economic activities**.
- **Travel measures** should be ensured to be **necessary, proportionate and non-discriminatory**

IHR Review Committee – Cont'd

- Strengthen the **evidence base** and its recommendations on the **impact and advisability of travel restrictions**
- More **specific travel advice should be made** to minimize disruption of international travel
- More robust **mechanism to collect and share information** on travel measures between all parties to guide risk assessment for international travel

Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response

- Every country should **apply non-pharmaceutical public health measures systematically and rigorously** at the scale the epidemiological situation requires, with an explicit evidence-based strategy agreed at the highest level of government to curb COVID-19 transmission

<https://theindependentpanel.org/mainreport/>

Use of technologies to support international travel

- WHO to study issues relating to **digital vaccination certificates**, such as mutual authentication and data security
- WHO should develop **norms and standards** for digital technology applications relevant to **international travel**, ensuring individual **privacy** and **facilitating equitable access** to all persons, including those in low-income countries

Resolution A74_R7 :Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies

Urges Member States

- (10) to **cooperate** in order to **facilitate cross-border travel** of persons for essential purposes during a health emergency and avoid unnecessary interference with trade without undermining efforts to prevent the spread of the causative pathogen, in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005);
- (11) to support stronger coordination with relevant multilateral organizations to **improve understanding and mechanisms** to deal with **travel and trade considerations**, including on how best to de-link travel from trade restrictions during public health emergencies of international concern, pursuant to the International Health Regulations (2005), with the goal of **maximizing the effectiveness of public health measures** while **minimizing negative economic impacts**, including by facilitating the manufacturing and movement of critical medical supplies essential to the public health response;

Resolution A74_R7 :Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies

REQUESTS the Director-General, as soon as practicably possible and in consultation with Member States

(4) to lead an evidence-based process, in consultation with Member States , relevant United Nations and other international organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate, and taking into account the recommendations of the IHR Review Committee:

i) to develop practical guidance ... to provide public health response ... that are **commensurate with risks** ... which **do not unduly impede cross-border movement** ...

iii) to develop recommendations, taking into consideration national circumstances, on the **appropriate implementation of travel restrictions**, including guidance to support countries to facilitate the return of citizens and permanent residents to their territories and, vice versa, and to **facilitate the departure from and transit through** their territory of nationals and permanent residents of third countries;

(iv) to **develop guidance** on situations that may occur in the context of **international conveyances**, seafaring and aviation during public health emergencies, such as outbreaks on international cruise ships, including the **division of roles and responsibilities** of the various actors concerned when responding to such situations;

Next steps

- A more robust global health architecture will be developed to enhance preparedness and response to future pandemics and public health emergencies.
- A new international treaty for pandemic preparedness and response is being discussed to foster a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to strengthen national, regional and global capacities and resilience to future pandemics.
- Recommendations from various review committees, panels will be discussed with Member States and partners in this process.

Thank You!