

The new normal in terms of testing and vaccinations?

January 2020



Disclaimer

Some of the statements and positions in this presentation have been included to stimulate discussion and may not reflect the official IATA position.

January 2021: current situation

Developments

- Fears about new variants – more infectious, not deadlier
- Worsening domestic COVID situation in many countries
- Vaccinations started but slow roll-out
- Some concerns on vaccine efficacy versus Brazil and S.Africa variants

Outcome

- More border restrictions – closures, additional testing, crew issues
- Industry advocacy on safely reopening borders having limited impact

Airline Industry Restart

Safely Reopening Borders

- Biosafety for air transport
 - Fitness to fly
 - On the ground
 - On board
 - Post arrival
- Removing travel restrictions

Safely Restarting the Aviation System

- Aircraft operations
 - Skilled staff
 - Airworthiness, MRO and Fuel
 - Vaccine logistics and distribution
- Balancing capacity and demand
 - Airspace operations
 - Airside operations
 - Slots
 - Skilled staff

Restore consumer confidence and stimulate demand

- Open destinations and travel incentives
 - Open destinations
 - Travel incentives
 - Facilitating travel
- Consumer engagement

Safely Reopening Borders

- Removing travel restrictions is key to economic recovery but this must be done safely and efficiently
- Work continues with WHO and ICAO to urgently develop standard testing and vaccines certificates (data elements and digital format)
- IATA Travel Pass and other digital solutions are available to address the verification challenge and to manage digital health credentials – need to ensure interoperability among industry solutions
- **Need for Guidance to help governments manage and mitigate risks including transition from testing to vaccines and removal of unnecessary biosafety measures**

Stalemate



Airlines/IATA

- Need borders to safely reopen and get recovery underway



Governments

- Focus on reducing domestic spread – tight restrictions or border closures
- Or have controlled domestic spread and thus don't want borders to open

Testing issues

- Not 100% sensitivity – a negative test does not imply “safe traveler”
- Conversely, a positive test does not imply an unsafe person.
- A recovered person may test positive for a while – antibody/serology test
- Many places have multiple tests **and** quarantine
- Too many variations in testing regimes based on OD, nationality etc.
- Frequent and sudden changes in regulations
- Testing not considered as a replacement of quarantine
- Costs and turnaround time for PCR test; capacity and timing issues.
- Antigen tests faster and cheaper but not widely accepted
- Test certificate authenticity and verification

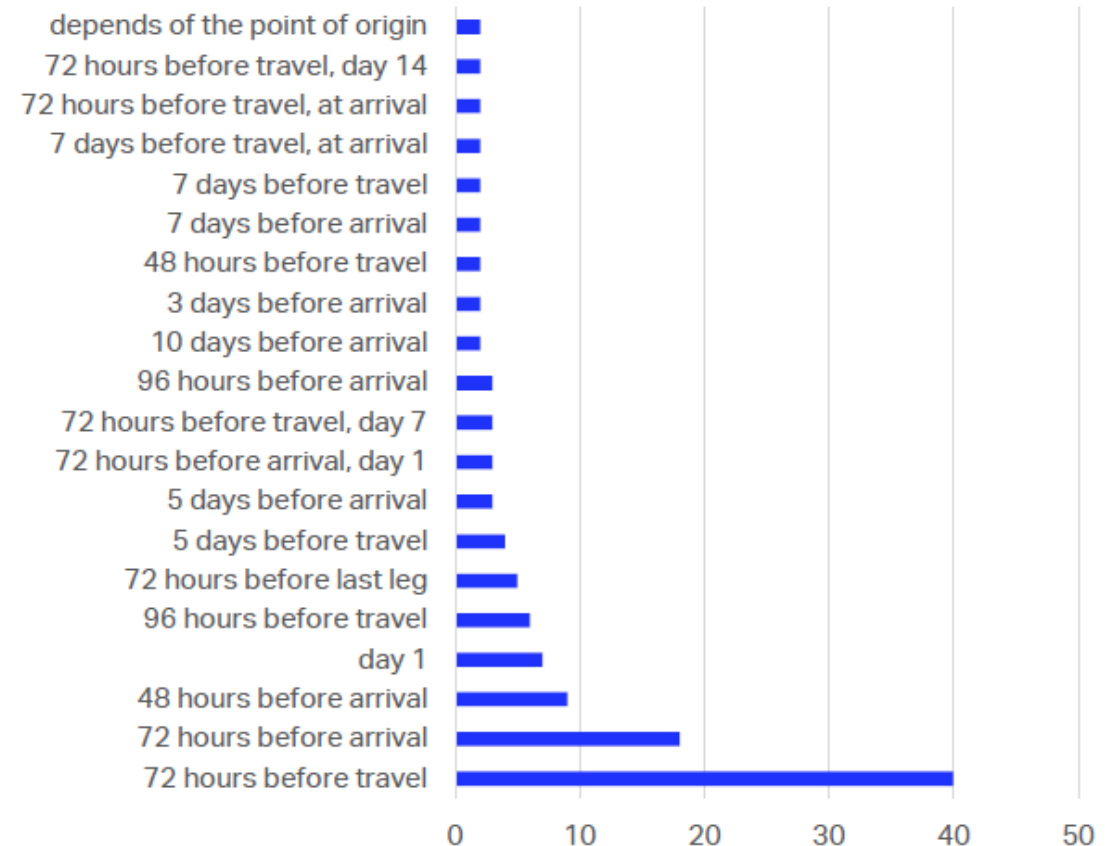
Vaccinations – the holy grail?

- Early days!
- Not 100% efficacy – some vaccines are reported as below 50%
- Not 100% penetration- antivaxxers and medical issues
- But not yet proven that vaccinated people are not infectious – thus vaccinated people need to be tested
- Vaccinated people domestically will reduce burden on medical system and thus MAY lead to a higher risk tolerance for inbound travel
- Vaccination certificate authenticity and verification

Testing, Quarantine and Vaccination

A few numbers to put things in perspective:

- Around 170 countries/territories with a testing scheme
- 69 known different timing for testing
- 49 models only applied by a single country
- The model where passengers are tested 72 hours before travel is applied by 40 States
- 70 countries are exempting passengers that are tested negative from all quarantine requirements (but may have strict border restrictions or lockdowns in place → limited demand)



Testing, Quarantine and Vaccination

Vaccination – first benefits:

- 3 countries are exempting vaccinated pax from testing requirements
- 3 countries are specifically exempting vaccinated pax from quarantine requirements

Other immunity certificates:

- 5 countries and one territory are exempting previously infected pax from quarantine (Iceland, Latvia, Lebanon, Poland, Israel, US Virgin Islands)
- 3 countries are exempting previously infected pax from testing requirements



Questions for discussion

- Can the industry afford to wait for borders to open only when there is herd immunity or completion of mass vaccinations?
- Would vaccinations be a condition to travel (internationally)?
- If science proves that vaccinated persons are not infectious, will vaccinated persons be exempt from restrictions?
- Do we think there can be parallel tracks for vaccinated and tested passengers?
- Will digital testing/vaccination certificates be the “new normal”?