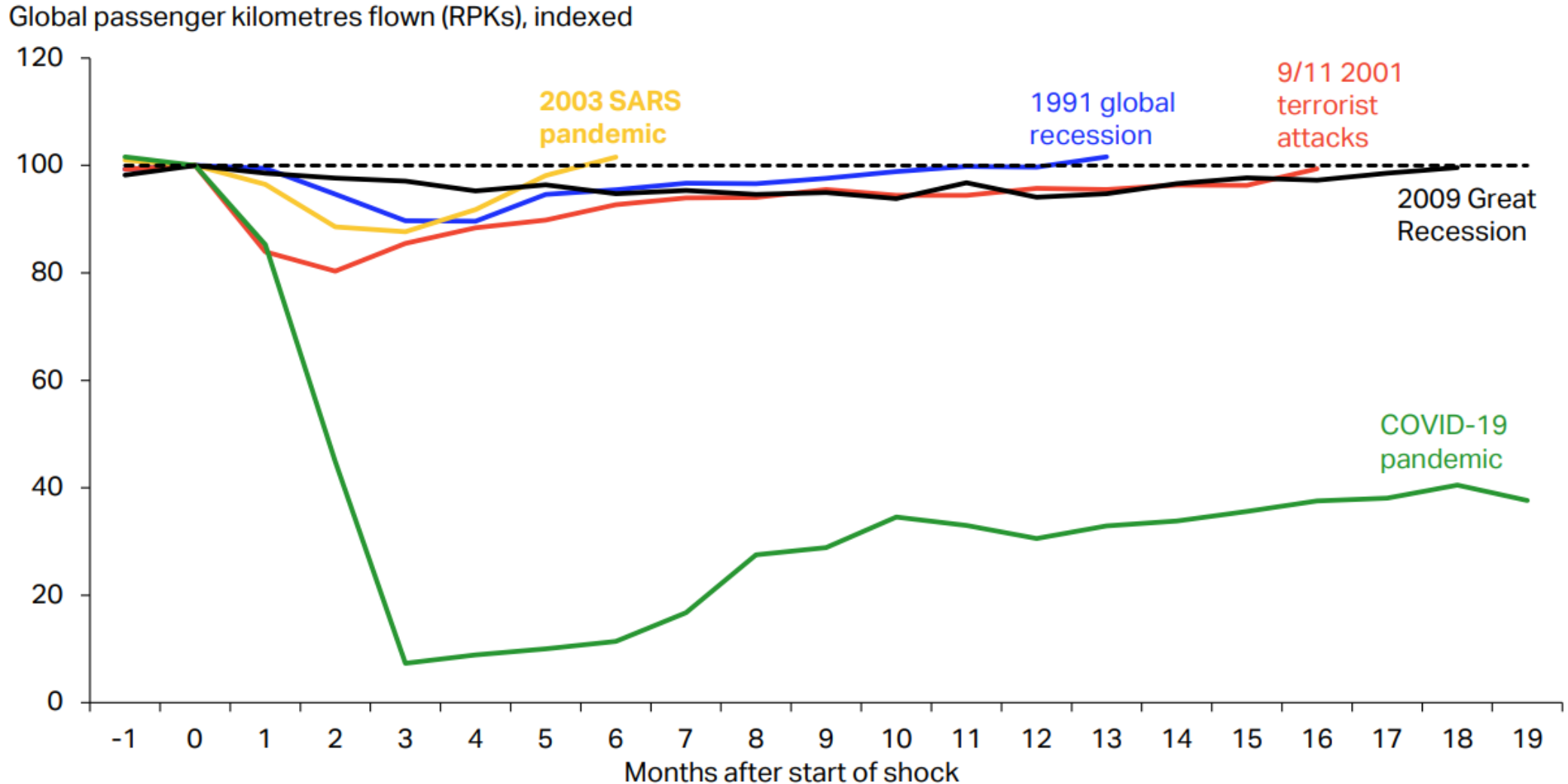


# **COVID-19: Lessons Learned**

Preparing for future pandemics



# COVID-19 had an unprecedented impact on air travel



Source: IATA Economics using data from IATA Monthly Statistics. Data is adjusted for seasonality.

# Extensive Lessons Learned from COVID-19

Multiple challenges, one key theme: Fragmented response to COVID-19 delayed recovery.

- Lack of coordination between States in terms of measures applied
- Patchy collaboration and engagement between travel and health sectors
- Absence of transparency around risk assessments
- Confused communication of measures
- Lack of global standard for health credentials – vaccine certificates, test results
- Collection of traveler information - Industry became *de facto* health inspector
- Particular challenge around treatment of crew

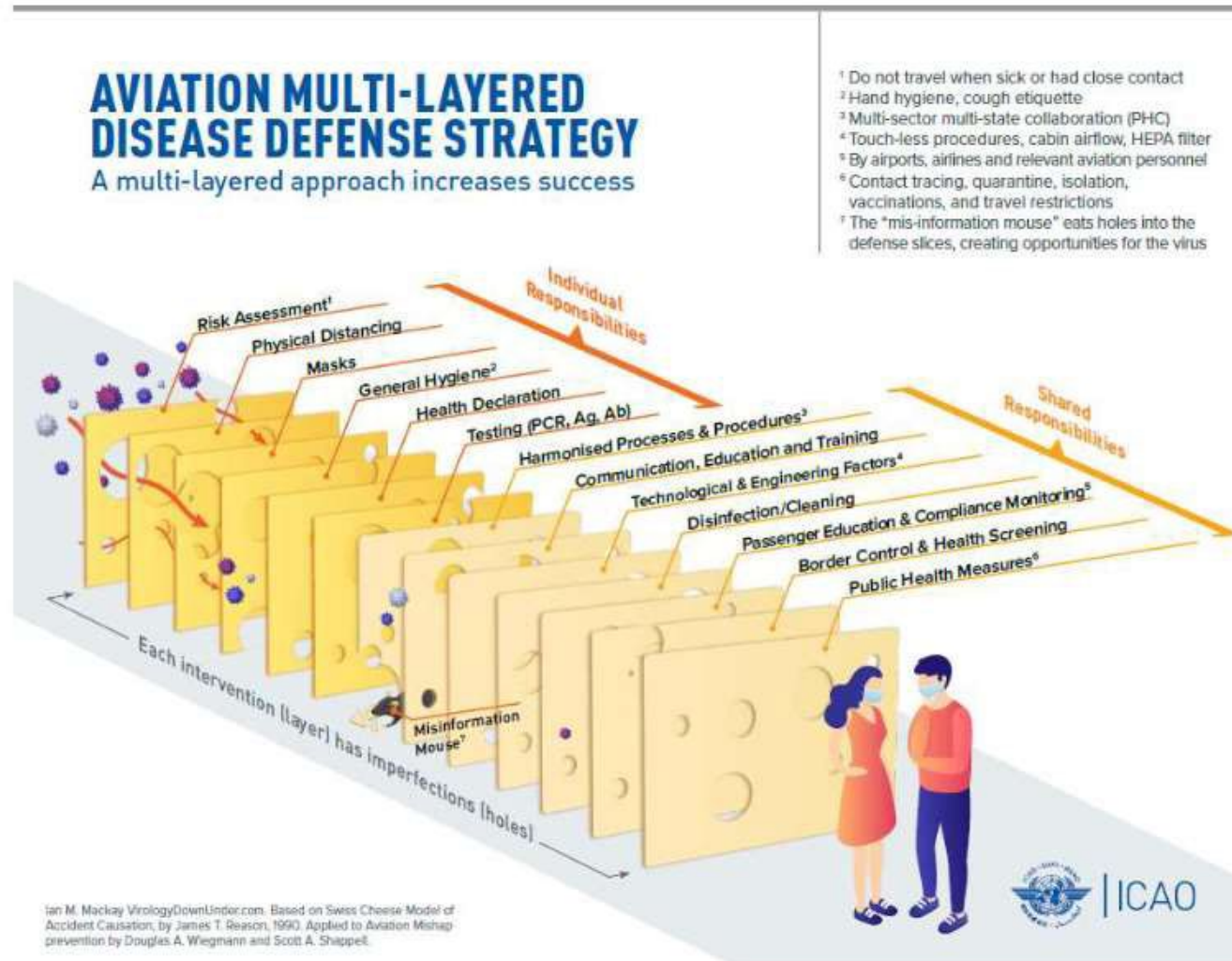
**Review to COVID response to inform preparedness efforts remains critical**

Purpose: To inform development of a “playbook” for responding to “Disease X”



# CART was critical and transformational in mid-2020

"Swiss-cheese" model appropriate given unknowns at the time



# Extensive research into airflow in cabin environment

Ventilation Air Rate (VAR) is a standard measure for the exchange of air in a given space – office, shopping mall, airplane...

**Here's how an airplane's Ventilation Air Rate compares:**

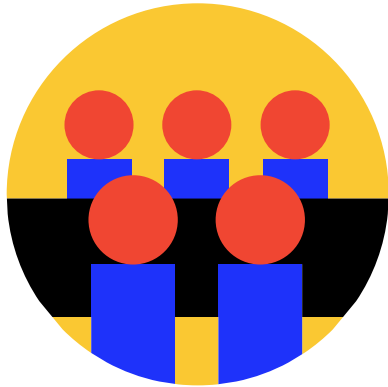
**x2**

Better than a  
**classroom**



**x3**

Better than a  
**conference room**



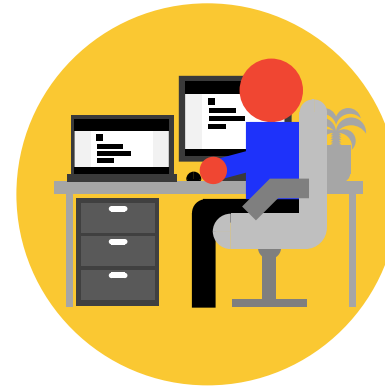
**x8**

Better than a **mall**  
or **supermarket**



**x12**

Better than an  
**office space**



Comparison based on data from ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1 – Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality (2019) and an aircraft operation with the max certificated number of passengers.

**99.993%**

**bacteria/virus removal  
efficiency rate**

Including SARS, which is similar to COVID-19,  
according to independent testing.

**50/50**

**Mix of HEPA-filtered / fresh air  
onboard**

And this is changed 20-30 times per hour.

**3 minutes**

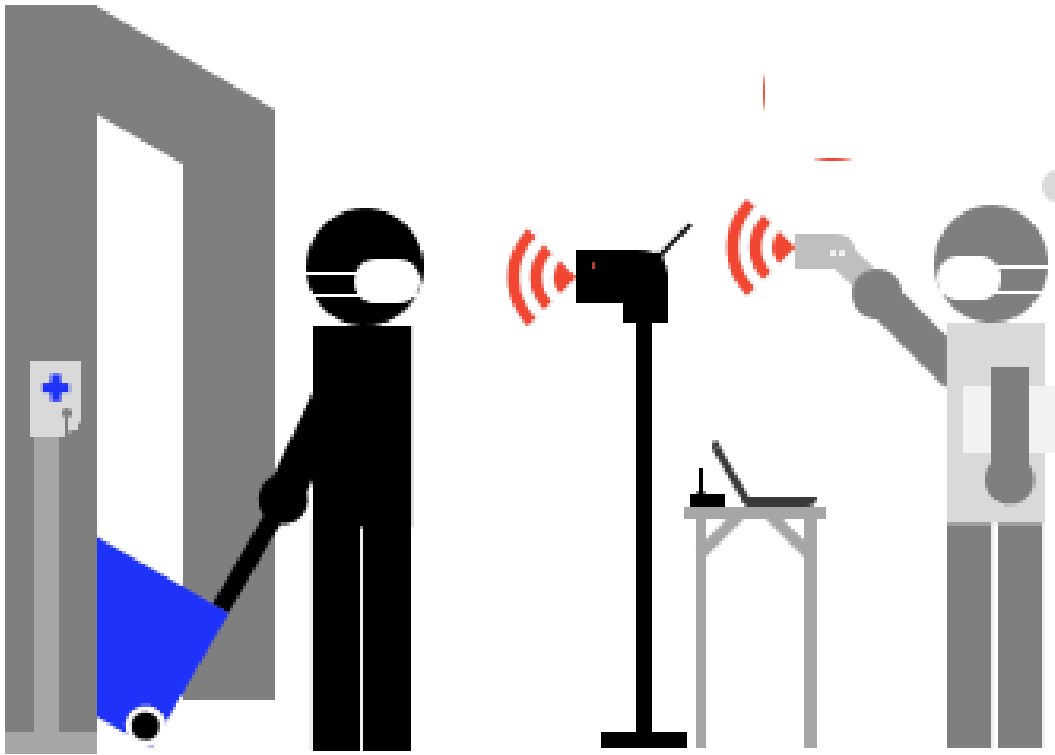
**Cabin air is refreshed on average  
every 3 minutes**

Hospitals ≈ 10 minutes

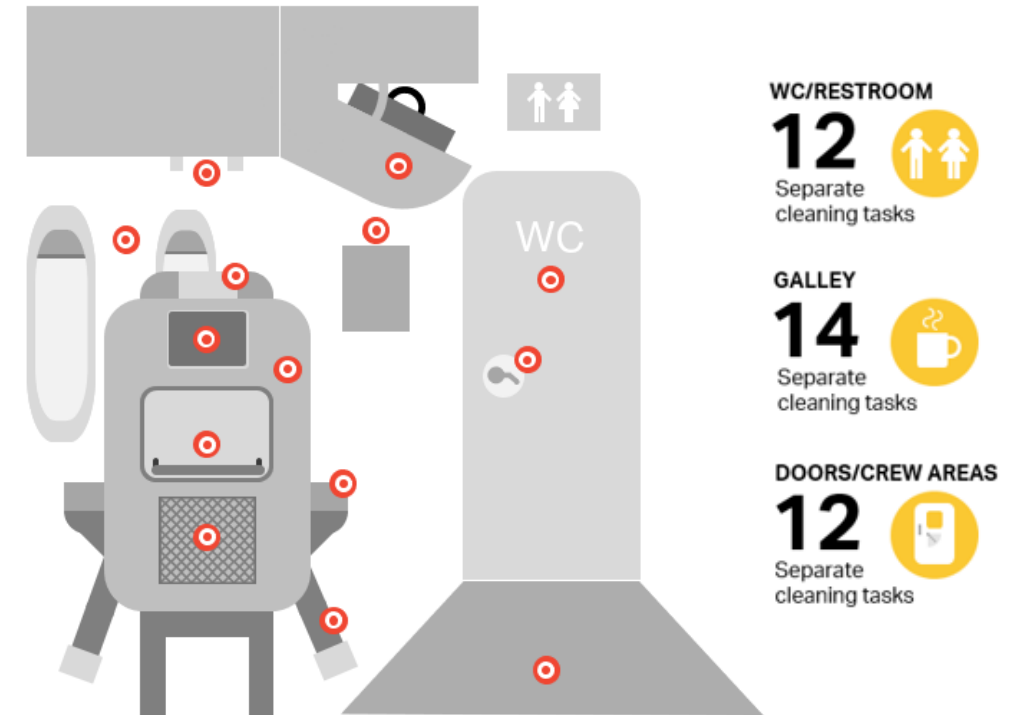
Offices ≈ 20 minutes.

# Merits of measures unclear; operational impact significant

## Temperature checks and extra disinfection largely ineffective



Pana et al "Real-World Evidence: The Low Validity of Temperature Screening for COVID-19 Triage" Public Health, Infectious Diseases – Surveillance, Prevention and Treatment Volume 9 - 2021 30 June 2021.



CDC US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Science Brief: SARS-CoV-2 and Surface (Fomite) Transmission for Indoor Community Environments. Posted 2021, Apr 5



# Important to consider new and alternative approaches

## Wastewater testing could play a key role in surveillance



# IATA committed to supporting ICAO and CAPSCA

Magnitude of COVID impact on air transport highlights importance of preparedness

Lessons-learned review of COVID response deliverable if properly scoped:

- ✓ Narrow focus on public health risk mitigation measures – not reopening all of CART
- ✓ Science-based approach – there is already a significant evidence base to draw on
- ✓ Should incorporate new technologies and approaches where appropriate

Key outputs are targeted and build on existing resources

- ✓ Evidence review document
- ✓ Guidance for responding to future health emergencies – robust to different pathogens
- ✓ Effective project management will be key to timely delivery

Critical that ICAO and CAPSCA resources for this initiative are safeguarded





# Thank You

**Vinoop Goel**  
IATA, Asia-Pacific

[goelv@iata.org](mailto:goelv@iata.org)

