

6th Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation

CAPSCA MEETING

Protea Hotel Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

OCTOBER 12 – 16, 2015

Presentation by

LIBERIA AIRPORT AUTHORITY - RIA

AIRPORT INFORMATION

- An International Airport, informally known as Robertsfield
- Built in 1942 during WWII
- Located in Harbel, approx. 44 km outside capital, Monrovia
- Named in honor of first President of Liberia, Joseph Jenkins Roberts
- Single Runway – 11,000 ft (3,353m)
- Principal airport and one of two paved runways in the country

BACKGROUND

- Prior to Ebola, there was minimal or no health screening being done at the airport;
- MOH/Port Health officers (2 assigned) were concerned with yellow health cards only;
- During Ebola, in collaboration with local health and airport authorities & CDC developed and implemented safety health measures and screening procedures which subjected airport users to various checks;

GOALS

- To reduce the risk of spread of Ebola by commercial air travel through our airports;
- To keep our airports open by maintaining safety of air travel for passengers, crew, airport workers and the traveling public;
- To protect the health of individual travelers, health of those with whom travelers had contact, and those in receiving communities;
- To ensure speedy and smooth referral of travelers with EVD symptoms from the airport to MOH health facilities;

EBOLA MILESTONES

2014	
March	First case of Ebola in country; border crossing near Foya, Lofa;
July	First case at RIA @ Patrick Sawyer traveling on ARIK Air to Nigeria;
	MOH conducted awareness & sensitization training for airport Ebola Task Force (security and RFFS);
August	Airport contracted 4 Nurses as health screeners;
	Inbound Pax temperature screening started;
	Public service announcement @ safety health procedures;
	Initial CDC training of airport Task Force(primary & secondary evaluation process, visual assessment & thermometer) and revised screening procedures and questionnaires developed;
	Secondary screening facility set up at Terminal A (donated by Arcelor Mittal,Liberia);
	Four (4) additional nurses hired;
	Maintain stringent access control procedures and emergency call list for Ebola response;
	Second incident at JSPA @ Thomas Eric Duncan on Asky Airlines;

MILESTONES CONTD

2015	
May	First declaration of Ebola Free country;
July 16	Second outbreak of EVD – six (6) cases @ near RIA (10 min drive from airport);
29	CAPSCA Assistance Visit;
	Thermo graphic cameras (donated by Japanese Gov't) installed at arrival and departure points (3);
September	Second declaration of Ebola Free country;

IMPACT OF EBOLA

- Reduction of Commercial Airlines (From 11 to 2, now 5)
- Increase in Cargo Flights
- Reduction in Workforce
- Financial implications
- Travel ban imposed
- Stigmatization

SAFETY & SECURITY MEASURES IMPLEMENTED

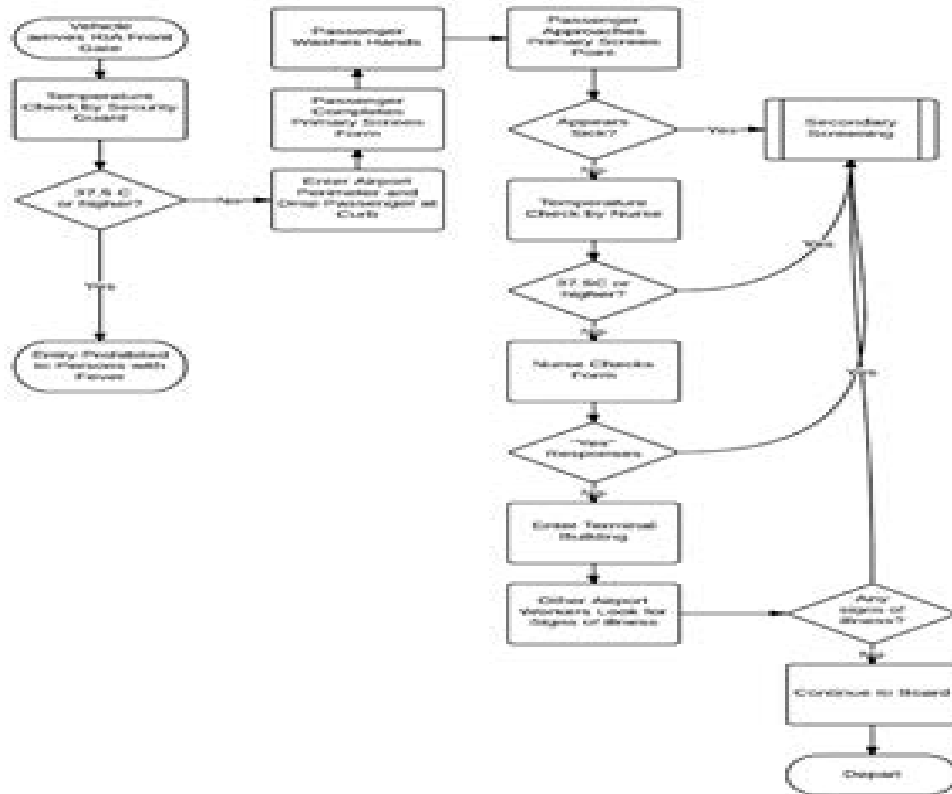
- New robust security measures established;
- Limiting airport access for passengers and customers;
- Body temperature measurement/screening;
- Evaluating/Screening for signs and symptoms of illness;
- Sanitize movement areas after every flight;
- Established hand washing stations throughout airport;
- Introduced Ebola Questionnaires;
- Established secondary screening point (triage);
- **Contact tracing lists of travelers for all flights were generated and checked to ensure that any pax on list was deny traveling;**

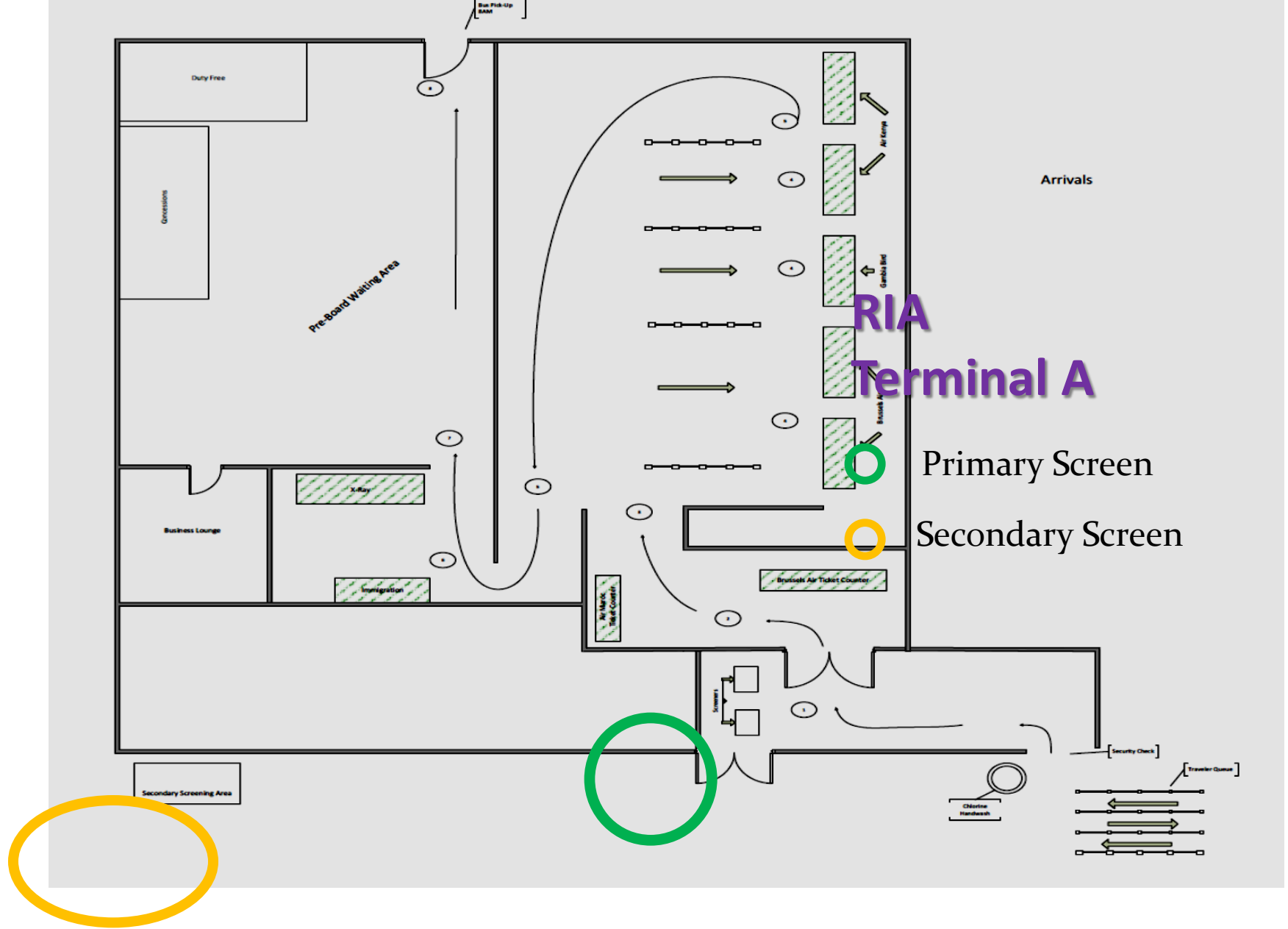
It is worth noting that LAA-RIA took full responsibility of public health emergencies at the airport;

CHECK POINTS

- Outside of airport entrance gate
- Curbside
- Terminal bldg departure entry gate – primary screening
- Secondary Screening (if necessary)
- Check-in-Counter
- Immigration passport check
- AVSEC screening point
- Departure transit lounge
- Boarding gate
- Just before boarding aircraft

PROCEDURES – FLOW CHART





Primary Screening Terminal B



Secondary Screen Facility Terminal A



PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

- Liberia Ministry of Health & Social Welfare (MOH)
- Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Airlines – SN Brussels & Royal Air Maroc
- International SOS
- Arcelor Mittal, Liberia

POST EBOLA – BUSINESS CONTINUITY

- Continue safety health measures, procedures and processes;
- Safety of airlines;
- Safety of passengers and crew;
- Boost confidence of those who use our airports;
- Plan ahead – Be predictive
- Work place confidence – Help employees stay engaged, focus and motivated;

Airlines input to the process involve the following-

- Ensured that airport conduct measures and procedures effectively;
- Introduced their own PHE questionnaires;
- Hired nurses as investigators/interviewers
- Temperature taken at boarding gate;
- Hands washing before boarding aircraft;

GOING FORWARD

- Develop a PHE plan as Appendix to AEP
- GOL/MOH to take responsibility of Public Health Emergencies
- Establish Airport clinic
- Continuous training of staff including a technical advisor

THANK YOU