

7th AFRICA REGIONAL AND GLOBAL MEETING AND WORKSHOPS OF THE
COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR
THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH EVENTS IN CIVIL AVIATION (CAPSCA)
(Livingston, Zambia 24 – 28 July 2017)

Overview

**Learning Program on Management of
Public Health Events in Air Transport**

Air transport is a key challenge for preventing international spread of health risks



INCREASING TRANSPORT
of passengers and cargo

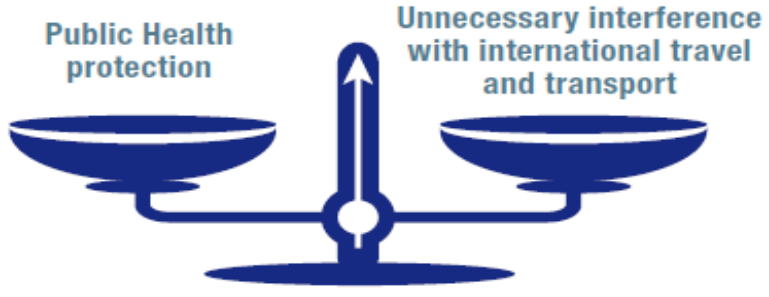
RAPID AIR TRANSPORT

- ▶ limited time for risk assessment
- ▶ quick international dissemination of diseases



NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERACTIONS between travellers, the public and airport workers

A need for a balanced response to guarantee



INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS

Public health and aviation sectors, together with other stakeholders have to manage public health events in air transport to avoid international spread of diseases.



MANAGEMENT OF EVENTS IN AIR TRANSPORT



ACUTE PUBLIC HEALTH EVENTS



Handbook for the Management of Public Health Events in Air Transport

Updated with information on Ebola Virus disease and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus



International Health Regulations (2015)

Learning Program on Management of Public Health Events in Air Transport

Blended learning



Goal

The learning program for Public Health Event Management in Air Transport – PHEMAT - will enhance the capacities of competent authorities at Airports, in a multisectoral approach, especially those open to international travels and designated to develop IHR public health core capacities, to implement a risk assessment approach to public health events, in a consistent manner and assist in determining interventions that are commensurate to the risks, while avoiding unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.

Learning Program on Management of Public Health Events in Air Transport

Discussion-based Exercises

A case study exercise is a facilitated discussion of an emergency situation, generally in an informal, low-stress environment. It is designed to elicit constructive discussion between participants; to identify and resolve problems; and to refine existing operational plans. This is the only type of simulation exercise that does not require an existing response plan in place.

Exercises using 2 (or 3) Case Scenarios in 3 phases

1 - On board Aircraft Illness

2 - Boarding Flight Illness

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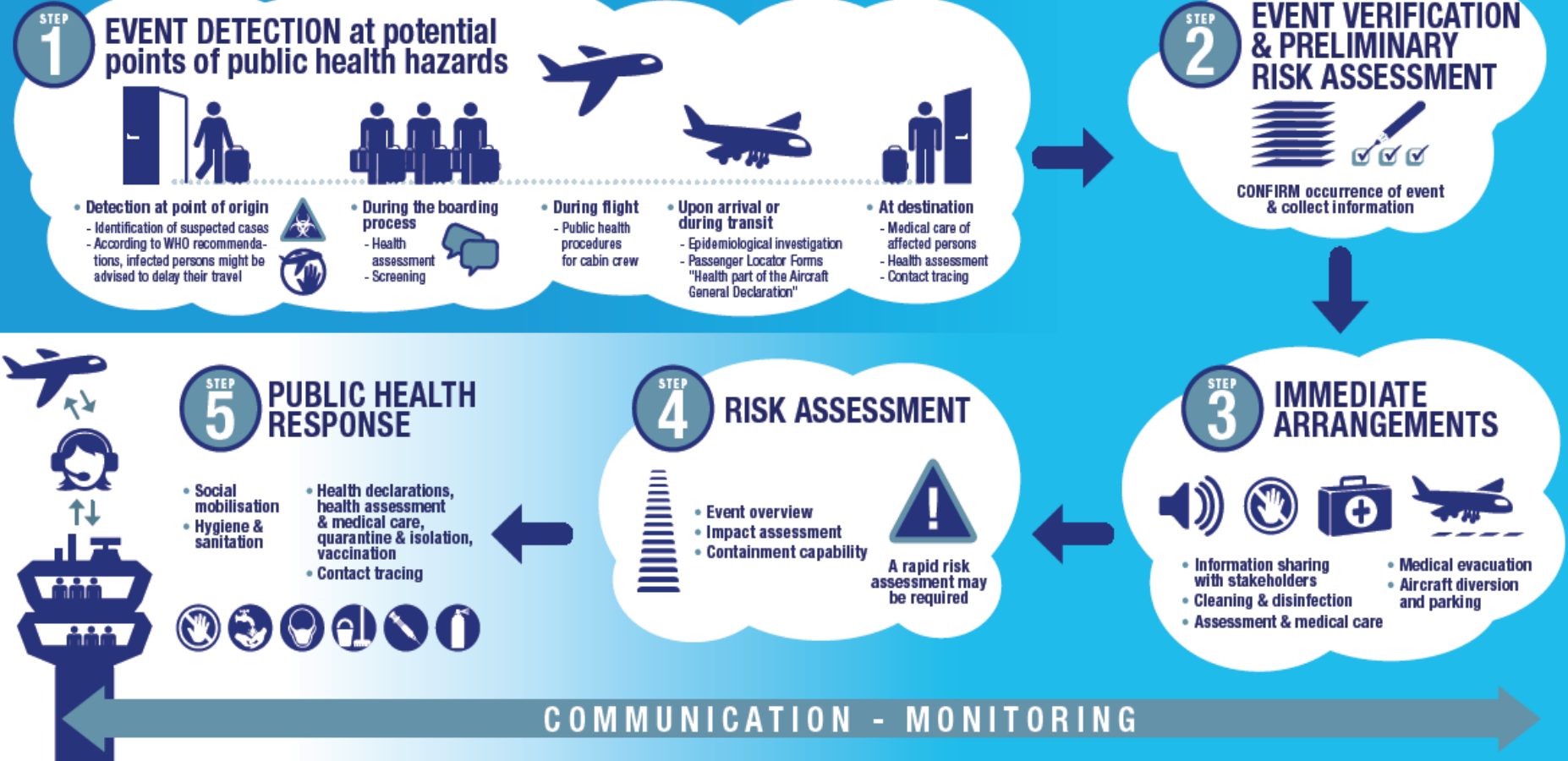
Discussion-based Exercises

Learning objectives

At the end of this case-scenario, participants will be able to:

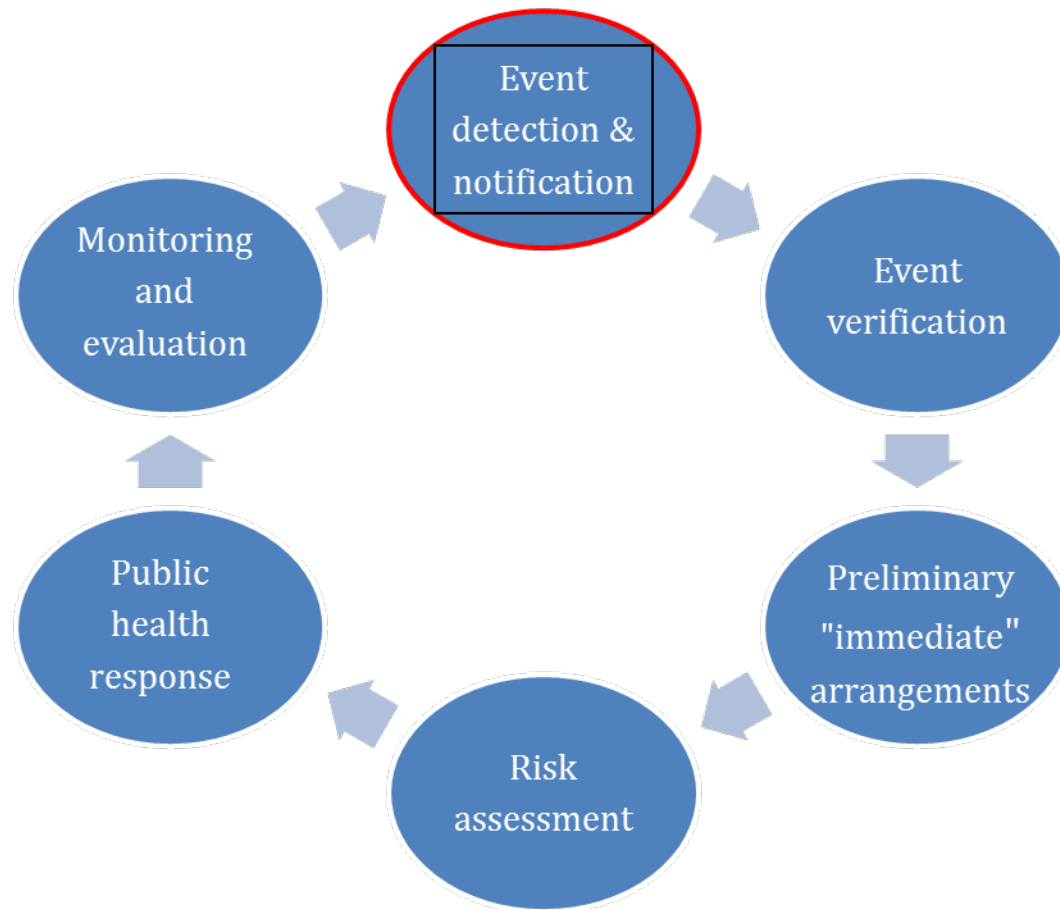
- ✓ Identify actions to be taken both on board of aircraft and at the airport when a suspected case is detected on board an aircraft.
- ✓ Explain who is responsible of these actions.
- ✓ List-down questions for assessing risk relevant at each stage.
- ✓ Describe immediate public health arrangements to be made.

DETECT & MANAGE PUBLIC HEALTH EVENTS DURING AIR TRANSPORT



- Developing a PHECP at designated POE is an important minimum requirement under IHR
- Improving and sustaining “readiness” is a continuing process (e.g. EOC, risk assessment capacity and operational research)
- A broader approach is required to operationalize the plans (local, national and international context)

Overview of Management of Events In Air Transport



Learning Objectives

Event Detection, Notification and Communications

At the end of the session participants will be able to:

- Identify the potential points of public health hazard detection and event notification in air transport
- Explain how public health events are detected before travelling, in transit and after
- Identify the basic information that should be collected and documented to support the preliminary risk assessment
- Identify the questions that need to be asked to guide a preliminary risk assessment



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Event Detection, Notification and Communications

DETECT & MANAGE PUBLIC HEALTH EVENTS DURING AIR TRANSPORT

STEP
1

EVENT DETECTION at potential points of public health hazards



- **Detection at point of origin**
 - Identification of suspected cases
 - According to WHO recommendations, infected persons might be advised to delay their travel



- **During the boarding process**
 - Check-in
 - Gate Attendant
 - Exit Screening



- **During flight**
 - Public health procedures for cabin crew

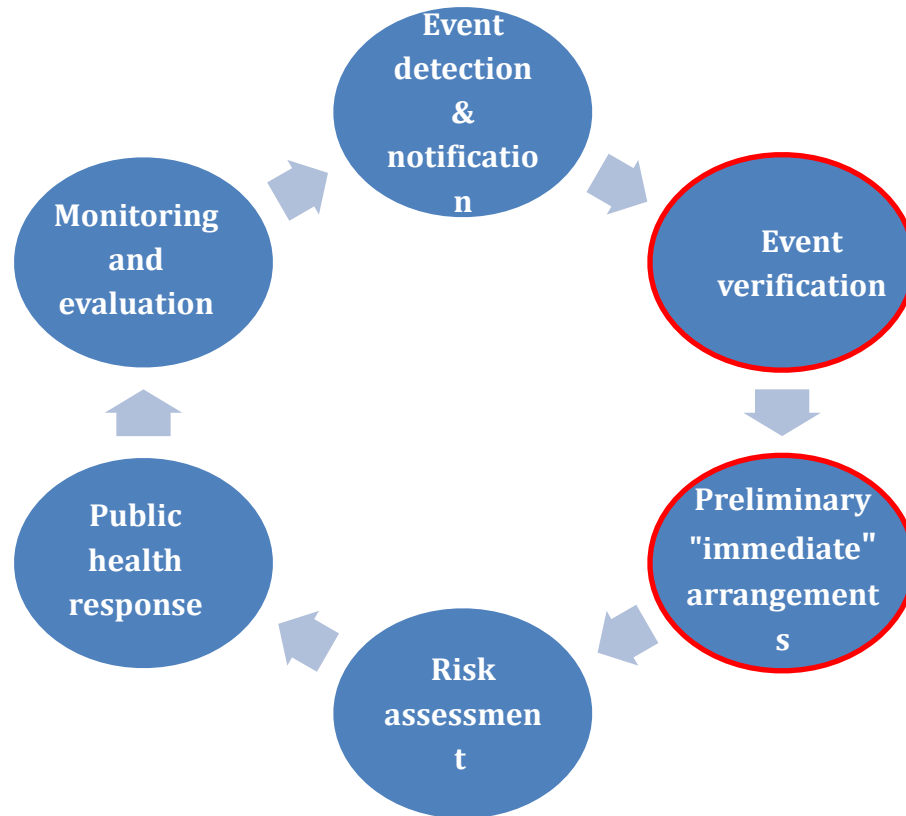


- **Upon arrival or during transit**
 - Epidemiological investigation
 - Passenger Locator Forms
 - "Health part of the Aircraft General Declaration"
 - Entry Screening



- **At destination**
 - Medical care of affected persons
 - Health assessment
 - Contact tracing

Immediate Arrangements for Travellers, Aircraft, Airport and Other Stakeholders



Immediate Arrangements for Travellers, Aircraft, Airport and Other Stakeholders

- Event Verification and Preliminary Risk Assessment:
- A) In Flight – Infection Control, Gastrointestinal Illness, Respiratory Illness, Contact with Body Fluids, Medical Emergencies – Upon Arrival
- B) Information Sharing and Possible Activation of Contingency Plans – Port Health and First Responders, Immigration and Customs Authorities, Support Services
- C) Diversion of Aircraft
- D) Aircraft Parking Position at Airport
- E) Port Health Assessment and Recommendations for cleaning and disinfection of aircraft
- F) Immediate Arrangements for Airport



Immediate Arrangements for Travellers, Aircraft, Airport and Other Stakeholders (EXAMPLE)

<p>Does the traveller require medical attention upon arrival? What are the clinical signs and symptoms among travellers, including severity?</p>	<p>Arrange for first responders and possible transfer to medical facility by ambulance.</p>	<p>Identification of the receiving medical facility.</p> <p>Communication to first responder: Note if communicable disease is suspected.</p>
<p>Is a public health event suspected with potential for in-flight transmission? How many passengers were exposed?</p>	<p>Alert port health to meet the aircraft at the arrival gate.</p> <p>Ensure sufficient port health staff are available.</p>	<p>Access to gate by first responders.</p>
<p>Is the aircraft coming from an affected area where WHO has recommended public health measures?</p>	<p>Consult WHO website for recommendations on health measures.</p> <p>If exit screening was recommended, request information on implementation and affected traveller(s).</p>	<p>If appropriate, ask for support and information sharing from other authorities/experts.</p>
<p>Are there a large number of ill travellers or those suspected of being ill on the arriving aircraft?</p>	<p>Identify space requirements for interviews and health assessments of arriving travellers.</p>	<p>The space should have access to toilet facilities and seating.</p>
<p>Is the use of PLFs warranted in order to conduct follow-up contact tracing?</p>	<p>Ensure PLFs are available on board the aircraft or from port health at the destination airport. Determine which travellers should be requested to complete the PLF.</p>	<p>Have the capacity to collect, use and securely store personal information on PLFs. Plan for their use, confidential storage and subsequent safe disposal.</p>
<p>Do disembarking travellers require information in the event of subsequent illness?</p>	<p>Prepare in advance basic health information to be used in the event of respiratory or gastrointestinal illnesses. Provide regional or national public health contact information in the event of subsequent illness.</p> <p>If PHEIC, customize templates provided by WHO, if available.</p>	<p>Know the language requirements for the health information.</p> <p>Known or unknown mode of transmission?</p>

Learning Objectives

Immediate Arrangements for Travellers, Aircraft, Airport and Other Stakeholders

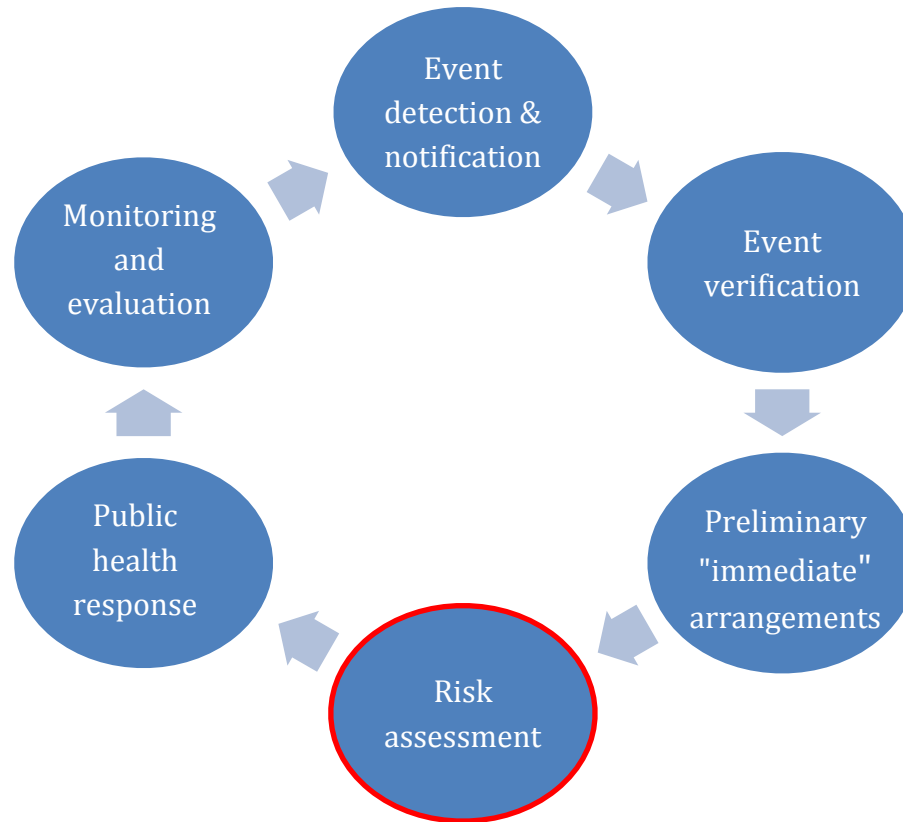
At the end of the session participants will be able to:

- Explain the immediate arrangements to be made for travellers/aircraft and Airports



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Risk Assessment



Learning Objectives

Risk Assessment

At the end of the session participants will be able to:

- **Understand that risk assessment is an iterative process that continues from the time of the events first detected to the time the event is closed**
- **Estimating a potential risk for a public health event is critical to determining which, if any, public health measures are required**
- **Explain why the port health authority must conduct this phase in collaboration with other stakeholders who may have information concerning the event**

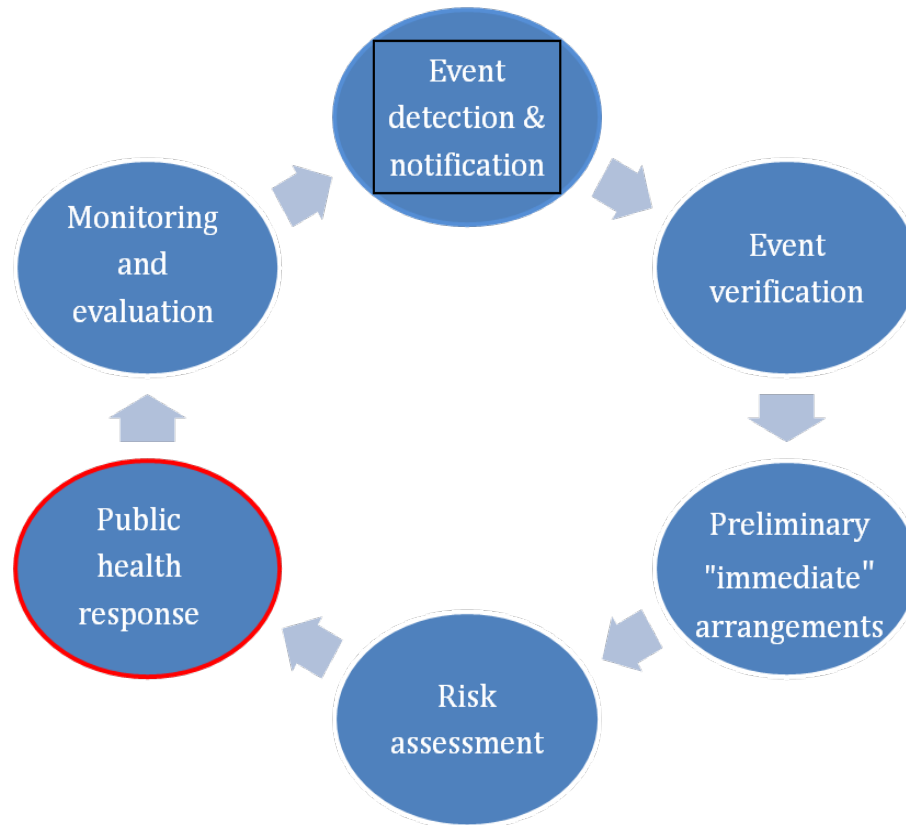


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Risk Assessment

“is an iterative process that continues from the time the event is first detected to the time the event is closed”

Public Health Response Containment Strategies



Learning Objectives

Public Health Response Containment Strategies

At the end of the session participants will be able to:

- **Describe how the risk assessment and the corresponding containment strategies are key to responding to public health events**
- **Identify why the legal requirements and socioeconomic impact are important in considering containment strategies**
- **Explain the need for consideration of events of unknown etiology such as chemical and radiological hazards**



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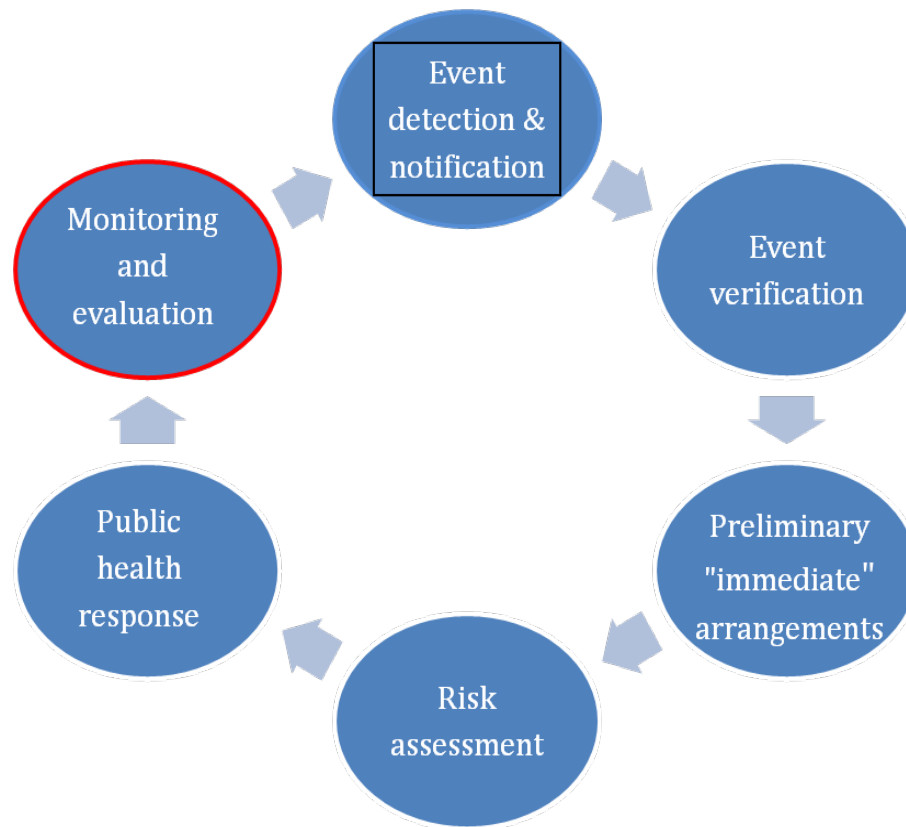
Public Health Response Containment Strategies

During air transport, initial containment at the source may be suboptimal and difficult to assess because of the rapid escalation of the event and difficulty in obtaining information from other countries about local conditions or airline passengers.

This section covers a wide range of public health containment measures that may be applied as part of a response to a public health event.



Monitoring and Evaluation of Event Response



Learning Objectives

Monitoring and Evaluation of Event Response

At the end of the session participants will be able to:

- **Explain how ongoing monitoring will help determine if public health measures are effective or need to be increased or reduced.**
- **Use “lessons learned” review to evaluate the strength/weaknesses of the capacity and effectiveness of the public health response to an event.**



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