



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

Africa

DAY 1 AND 2 PANNEL DISCUSSIONS:

**Coordination Aviation & PH in the Covid-19 Pandemic context / Lessons learned (Panel discussion)
PHE management in aviation: Challenges and perspectives (Panel discussion)**

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Day 1 - SESSION 4: Coordination Aviation & PH in the Covid-19 Pandemic context / Lessons learned (Panel discussion)

Intervention and assistance given to states to foster better collaboration, coordination, and cooperation between Aviation and Public health: **Strategic Level:** Provision of Recommendations, Policy and Technical guidance on international travel, the ongoing revision of the WHO International Travel and Health (ITH) document (the "green book"), joint abatement at the global level, **Operational level:** Training onsite and online, development of operational plans for PHERP, regular assessment of response capacities (i.e. via SPAR, JEE, SimEx, IAR/AARs, joint training)

Challenges: the limited available scientific evidence, the lack of harmonization on the implementation of travel measures, and the use of the "precautionary approach" by state parties, imposing measures such as travel ban. Linkage of the point of entry with the public health surveillance system

Lessons learnt:

- Consultations and alignment of speeches in the same direction (One voice) among different partners reinforces collaboration and cooperation to achieve the same goal.
- Engaging political leadership structures at national and sub-national levels, improves collaboration and public health practices at the Point of Entry and in the Aviation sector.
- Multisectoral approach in developing PHERP for aviation sector and Simulation exercise enhance coordination in the preparedness phase and the response phase.

Recommendations: Promote and advocate for risk-based approach to members states, when determining additional measures to be applied to international traffic. Encourage countries to document and share best practices/lessons learned to create institutional memory and guide future interventions and research.

Next step: Working with CAPSCA, ICAO to Enhance collaboration, together promoting the use of available scientific evidence, and harmonization on the implementation of travel measures,

Day 2- SESSION 5: PHE management in aviation: Challenges and perspectives (Panel discussion)

- *What have been the key challenges experienced in your sector?*

- The use of a “precautionary approach” amid new developments in the pandemic (i.e. emergence of new variants of concern), and in the context of a lack of complete scientific information, has prompted the implementation in some countries of strict international travel-related measures (i.e. travel bans, border closures).
- Complexity of disaggregating or producing evidence on the public health effects and impact of different risk mitigation measures being applied, and of accounting for both their effectiveness in disease control, and broader unintended socioeconomic impact.
- Countries’ varying risk tolerance levels and control strategies continue posing challenges for the harmonization of measures globally.

- *What have we learnt which can help shape the current, as well as future response?*

- The COVID 19 pandemic and past outbreaks have demonstrated the importance of a holistic approach for risk management of public health events related to international travel and transport, instead of a narrow look at points of entry which is just one bit of an entire travel continuum. The revision of the SPAR (State Party Self-assessment Annual Reporting) tool recommends countries to institutionalize the multi-sectoral approach to risk-based international traffic decision-making that extends to the traveller’s pathway from the point of departure (BEFORE), through the point of entry and transit points (DURING), to the point of arrival (AFTER). <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/350218/9789240040120-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>



Thank you

