



Date: 07 September 2020  
Document Code: 48-01  
Version: 01

## Guidelines

# International Passengers Arriving at Airports in Pakistan

(Applicable till Sep 15<sup>th</sup> 2020)

### Objective

To provide guidelines to the aviation authorities and crew regarding identification, management and reporting of suspected case of COVID 19 to reduce the risk of COVID 19 transmission from passengers arriving from abroad.

### Rationale

The COVID-19 outbreak is a global public health challenge, causing acute respiratory illness leading to severe pneumonia and death in a segment of the cases. This has prompted the demand for the detection and management of suspected cases at Points of Entry (PoEs) including ports, airports and ground-crossings. It was therefore important that measures to limit the spread of the virus are taken ensuring control in earlier phase of the possible outbreak. In view of the above, a protocol was prepared in early 2020 to contain COVID-19. However, given the speed of spread and newer scientific evidences about the spread of virus, the situation on grounds is changing which has necessitated updating the guidelines. These protocols are equally applicable to all crew members and staff getting off the planes.

### Definitions

**Contacts** are people who (on the aircraft)

- Any person sitting within 2 meters of the suspected case
- Any travel companions or persons providing care who had close contact with the suspected case
- Any cabin crew member designated to look after the ill traveler(s), and crew members serving in the section of the aircraft where the suspected case(s) was seated. Cockpit crew are not concerned if they have not circulated into the cabin and come close to the ill traveler (s).
- If the severity of the symptoms or numerous movements of the case(s) indicate more extensive exposure, passengers seated in the entire section or, depending on aircraft design and assessment on arrival by airport health authorities, all passengers on the aircraft may be considered contacts.

**Symptomatic** means developing the symptoms specific to a disease - COVID-19 in this case



*Asymptomatic* means absence of any symptoms specific to a disease - COVID-19 in this case

## Preparations-Administrative and Logistics

It is of utmost importance that preparations are made well before the execution is expected:

- Average number of International flights in the past couple of years for understanding the load.
- Segregating flights ensuring maximum workforce in the instances of arrivals of those flights.
- Weekly schedule of all the flights to be available with details such as:
  - Origin and route
  - Time of departure and arrival
  - The number of passengers
- Identification of competent staff from the current stock, or urgent hiring for ensuring continuity.
  - Personnel at health counters
  - Doctors
  - Nurses/ Paramedics
  - Data operators
- Detailed trainings with refreshers of all the staff and clear guidelines for their roles and responsibilities.
- Establishing coordination between Central Health Establishments and
  - Airlines
  - Customs
  - FIA/ ASF/ CAA
  - ED/Directors of the Hospitals
  - LEAs / NDMA
  - Ministry/Departments of Health etc.

## Operations

Once administrative and logistic requirements are met, operational modalities would need exact specifications, following is what is recommended:

### STEP-1: INSIDE THE PLANE - BEFORE DISEMBARKATION

- Handing over Health Declaration Forms (HDF) to on-board travelers
- The aviation crew shall make an announcement for filling in the HDFs by the travelers which will be mandatory for entry inside Pakistan (Annex 'A')
- HDF (Annex 'B') will need to be duly filled by all travelers and handed over to Health Authorities present in the International Arrival Lounges
- Disembarkation should be done row-wise.
- Inside International Lounge, proper queuing shall be ensured by CAA to keep travelers at least 2 meters apart
- CAA shall ensure a uniform HDF to be used by all airlines landing at any airport of Pakistan internationally as provided by the Federal Government (M/O National Health Regulations and Coordination)



- Sanitizers should be placed by CAA at arrivals for travelers.

## **STEP-2: FIRST CONTACT AFTER DISEMBARKING -THERMOSCREENING**

- All travelers should be in queue with a distance of 6 feet and will be undergoing thermo screening by thermoguns and/or thermo scanners
- Airport Security Force and CAA will help mob management on spot
- The staff of CHE will evaluate the results of scanning:
  - Traveler detected with fever shall be marked so on HDF and Supervisor will be informed immediately and shall be taken to Health Counter
  - Travelers with no fever shall go through process as such

## **STEP-3: HEALTH COUNTERS – SEGREGATION OF TRAVELERS**

- Each Health counters will be managed by a quarantine assistant and/or health worker
- Filled HDFs shall be collected at the counters and analyzed as per the questions, helping segregation and preliminary decisions
- The content of the form shall segregate the passengers as:
  - Symptomatic travelers
  - Asymptomatic travelers

## **STEP-4: ASSESSMENT AND CLASSIFICATION OF TRAVELERS**

As stated above once all travelers have passed through the said process, there will be two classes of travelers:

### **I. Symptomatic Travelers:**

The health officers and health staff will see and examine the HDF and the travelers for the following signs and symptoms.

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty in breathing

Arriving passengers if found to have symptoms, when screened at the port of arrival by Pakistani authorities, will be required to have a COVID 19 RT PCR test conducted and its result essentially submitted to the designated authorities. within 48 hours of their arrival. Contact details of such suspected cases will be acquired by port authorities, and information about test report submission process will be provided to such suspected cases before they leave the airport. Such suspected cases (based on screening at the port/point of Entry) are not required to be retained/quarantined by the authorities at the time of disembarkation, and can proceed to their destination. In instances where the test is found to be negative, they do not need to be isolated at their respective homes/place of visit; however, in case of a positive RT-PCR result, such cases would be required to self-isolate as per the guidelines for positive cases and isolation procedures.



## **II. Asymptomatic Travelers**

- All other-than-above travelers will be allowed to go home with written instructions/guideline to STAY HOME and will be followed up as per protocol (Annex 'C')
- PP/CNIC No and contact details of all will be collected before they leave the airport

### **STEP-5: PRECAUTIONS TAKEN FOR STAFF**

Overall precautions against the spread of COVID-19 shall be observed by all the staff concerned in these guidelines. It is also important that if any of the staff members during this cycle of SOPs has symptoms of the disease post exposure has to be reported at the earliest and isolated as per protocols. IEC material to be explained to the staff at the airport during detailed briefs and at the same time measures ensured for the aircraft crew.

### **STEP-6: DATA COLLECTION**

- The Data will be entered on Travelers Surveillance Management Information System-TSMIS at airports and forwarded to HQ Central Health, ISD
- This Data will be transferred to NEOC
- NIH and respective labs will be required to convey positive results to the CHE staff for entering the data system and for further follow up

*Note: The above recommendations are being regularly reviewed by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination and will be updated based on the international & national recommendations and best practices.*

*The Ministry acknowledges the contribution of Dr Irfan Tahir, Ms. Syeda Shehirbano Akhtar, and HSA/ HPSIU/ NIH team to compile these guidelines.*

### **References:**

1. World Health Organization. Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases or outbreak in aviation, Interim guidance, March 2020
2. ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan

**For more information, please contact:**

HSA/ HPSIU/ NIH, PM National Health Complex, Islamabad

<http://covid.gov.pk/>

<http://nhsrco.gov.pk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/NHSRCOfficial>

<http://www.hsa.edu.pk/>

<https://twitter.com/nhsrcofficial>

<https://www.nih.org.pk/>

<https://www.youtube.com/NHSRC-PK>



Annex 'A'

**IN-FLIGHT ANNOUNCEMENT**

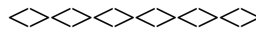
**YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE**

Our crew is about to distribute the Health Declaration Card amongst all the passengers.

In accordance with the instructions of the Government of Pakistan and in view of Novel Coronavirus outbreak, all passengers are advised to fill up the form and handover to Health Staff in the International Arrival Lounge.

Non-Compliance may result in denial of entry to the country.

Thank you for your Attention!





Annex 'B'



**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**  
**DIRECTORATE OF CENTRAL HEALTH ESTABLISHMENT**  
PM's National Health Complex (NIH Premises) Chak Shahzad  
Airport Health Establishment AIIAP Lahore  
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**SECONDARY EXIT SCREENING FORM FOR SUSPECTED TRAVELLERS**  
**TO INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS AT AIRPORTS**

PLEASE FILL IN COMPLETE FORM.FALSE INFORMATION OF INTENT WILL BE FOLLOWED  
WITH LEGAL CONSEQUENCES

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex:  Male  Female

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality/Region \_\_\_\_\_

Passport No. \_\_\_\_\_ Destination.....

Flight No. \_\_\_\_\_ Seat No. \_\_\_\_\_

1. The destination country \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Flight No. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Please describe the countries and cities (towns) where you stayed within the last 14 days?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Have you had close contact with COVID-19 patients /person with Dry cough, Temperature and/difficulty in breathing within the last 14 days? Yes  No

5. If you have the symptoms and diseases, please mark with "√" in the corresponding "□"

- Fever  Cough  Sore throat  Fever  
 Headache  Diarrhea  Vomiting  Runny nose  Breath

difficulty  Fatigue

Other symptoms \_\_\_\_\_

**I declare that all the information given in this form is true and correct.**

Signature of passenger \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION BY MEDICAL OFFICER**

**SYSTEMIC EXAMINATION BY MEDICAL OFFICER**

FIT TO TRAVEL	UNFIT TO TRAVEL
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Health Authority

(Signature and Seal)

Dated \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



Annex 'C'

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ARRIVING PASSENGERS**

In view of COVID-19 Global pandemic, Govt. of Pakistan has made it mandatory for all arriving passengers from other countries to fill this Health Declaration Form (HDF) to the best of your knowledge:

1. Please fill this form before leaving the aeroplane.
2. You are requested to follow the instructions of the ground staff and written displayed instructions.
3. Please move in queue keeping 2 meters distance and wait for your turn
4. On your turn, you will be asked to hand over your HDF.
5. Your body temperature will be checked by Health Authorities using Thermoguns and/Infrared Fever Scanner
6. Arriving passengers if found to have symptoms, when screened at the port of arrival by Pakistani authorities, will be required to have a COVID 19 RT PCR test conducted and its result essentially submitted to the designated authorities. within 48 hours of their arrival. Contact details of such suspected cases will be acquired by port authorities, and information about test report submission process will be provided to such suspected cases before they leave the airport. Such suspected cases (based on screening at the port/point of Entry) are not required to be retained/quarantined by the authorities at the time of disembarkation and can proceed to their destination. In instances where the test is found to be negative, they do not need to be isolated at their respective homes/place of visit; however, in case of a positive RT-PCR result, such cases would be required to self-isolate as per the guidelines for positive cases and isolation procedures.
  - a. **In case the test is positive**, the medical team will advise you about the next step in accordance with bullet above.
  - b. **In case the test is negative**, you will be provided detailed instructions for 14 days-home quarantine with instructions to be followed at home to keep you safe.
7. In case you do not have any COVID-19 related signs/symptoms, you will be provided detailed written instructions for home quarantine for 14 days.
8. Appropriate follow-ups will be done for 14 days by Health/Local Authorities for the betterment of your health.

**YOUR COOPERATION WILL HIGHLY BE APPRECIATED**

**For health helpline, please dial 1166**