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REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA  
CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTION GENERAL  
Air Navigation Management  
AIS/MAP  
P.O. BOX 5026 -1000  
SAN JOSE – COSTA RICA

*AIC*  
Series A

09/A06  
09/05/22

## FAL

### PREVENTIVE MEASURES INFLUENZA A(H1N1)

The Civil Aviation Direction General in coordination with “Ministerio de Salud” and “Caja Costarricense de Seguro Social” communicates pilots and other crew members and Aircrafts Operating Companies that the following measures of epidemiologic character have been implemented at International Airports, in order to detect and counteract the effects of human influenza A (H1N1).

#### **Passengers with influenza symptoms:**

- ◆ Personnel must be informed on symptoms and also what to do about it.
- ◆ If some flight crew members or another personnel that have informed of a passenger that comes from an risk area of human influenza A (H1N1), with fever or breathing illness should maintain the sick person separated of close contact with other people, as much as possible.
- ◆ Ask the sick person to use a breather N-95 which will reduce the infection risk (Use the breather if the person doesn't have severe difficulty when breathing) if the breather is not available provide disposable paper towels and ask the affected person to cover mouth when coughing or uses technique of coughed and sneeze.
- ◆ Personnel must use breathers N-95 to be protected.
- ◆ Personnel must use disposable gloves to avoid direct contact with blood or any passenger's corporal fluids; however gloves do not substitute the appropriate hands hygiene.
- ◆ Right after finishing activities that imply contact with corporal fluids, gloves should be discarded carefully and hands must be washed. The gloves should never be washed or use it again.
- ◆ Toilet shall be identified for sick passenger's exclusive use. To discard the polluted material and for aircraft cleaning, recommended bio-security measures should be followed.
- ◆ The Captain shall report to the control tower personnel of the presence of a suspicious case of influenza, as soon as illness is being observed, according to case definition and they will report to the 9-1-1, who will have the immediate responsibility of alerting health authorities.
  - ◆ Station officials will notify in order to have available a quick answer team when the airplane arrives and will notify the appropriate local, regional and national officials according to their work place. The officials of the quick answer team will work with the airline and local health personnel and they will collaborate in the attendance and patient's medical transport since the arrival, on illness control measures and passengers' contention and on the team notification activities and surveillance, and on aircrafts disinfection procedures.

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**Arrival passengers care:**

When passengers arrived from areas with human influenza A (H1N1) the following recommendations must be observed:

- ◆ Personnel that has to stop or to attend a passenger that seems to have a breathing illness and that could have traveled into an area with human influenza A (H1N1), should try to protect this person or isolated from other passengers, however possible and contact immediately the appropriate authorities, such as the quick answer team and services personnel of local, regional and national health.
- ◆ Like; with all infectious illnesses, the first defense line is hands careful hygiene. As general practice, the personnel should frequently wash their hands, using water and soap.
- ◆ Inside; provide to the sick passenger a breather N-95 if it is available, to reduce the number of drops, coughed on the air, if the passenger can tolerate it. If there is not available, provide disposable paper towels and ask the sick person to cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing.
- ◆ If; a sick passenger cannot use a breather, the personnel should use it when working directly with the sick person.
- ◆ Personnel should use disposable gloves if they touch blood or corporal fluids. However, the gloves do not substitute the appropriate hygiene of hands. Immediately after the activities that imply contact with corporal fluids, gloves should be carefully discarded and hands should be washed. Gloves should never be washed or use it again.

| Health authorities directory |           |           |          |                    |                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| International Airports       | IATA Code | Code OACI | Region   | Health Region (MS) | Responsible authority (MS)   | Telephone |
| Juan Santamaría              | SJO       | MROC      | Alajuela | Central North      | Dra. Virginia Céspedes       | 2237-4457 |
| Daniel Oduber                | LIR       | MRLB      | Liberia  | Chorotega          | Dr. Enrique Jiménez Aragón   | 2666-1292 |
| Limon                        | LIO       | MRLM      | Limon    | Huetar Atlantic    | Dr. Róger Brown Stamp        | 2798-1190 |
| Tobías Bolaños               | TBL       | MRPV      | Pavas    | Central South      | Dr. Guillermo Flores Galindo | 2220-0693 |

“Ministerio de Salud” (Dirección Vigilancia de la Salud): 2255-1427 / 2221-3704.

“INCIENSA” 2279-9911 / 2279-0304

“Caja Costarricense del Seguro Social”: 2223-1128 o 2295-2711

*When airplane arrives, the control tower will instruct the aircraft captain, so he must moves to a specific area of the airport in order to the health authorities can value suspicious case. If the case is discarded as suspicious, it will proceed with passengers disembarking.*

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If suspicious cases are confirmed, the health authorities will carry out the pertinent coordination with the designated Hospital to transfer the patient or patients, allowing the entrance of “Cruz Roja”.

### **Surveillance Positions on Airports**

Once phase 4 or 5 of Pandemic Alert period is reached a surveillance and information position should be established working the 24 hours at Juan Santamaría International Airport and 8 hours in the other airports counting with this personnel the 24 hours in case some alert is presented.

The corresponding Regional Direction of “Ministerio de Salud” will be in charge of the coordination of setting-up and operation of these positions, with the National Commission support.

In order to become this coordination even more effective, the in charge officials of Regional Directions already mentioned and from corresponding Airports will be invited to the necessary sessions of National Commission.

These positions should be constituted for at least an official of “Ministerio de Salud” and a doctor trained on coordination measures, surveillance and bio-security, described on national Plan. Each Regional Direction will be in charge of the organization of these positions about personnel's rotation with collaboration of other institutions for its development.

The central level will take care when necessary of alerting countries included on trip itinerary of suspicious patient.

Once the World Health Organization declares the beginning of the Pandemic, these positions will remain active until the National Commission indicates it (when the virus is circulating thoroughly community level, it must be evaluated if these positions should continue working).

Reference: [www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr](http://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr) / Sanitary Emergency / Pandemic Influenza National Plan.

**REPLACES AIC 04/09**

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