



THIS PROTOCOL APPLIES TO GROUP B

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) Public health information protocol

Introduction

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. Typical symptoms of coronavirus include fever and a cough that may progress to a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. Generally, coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease. Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China.

Based on the World Health Organization's declaration that this is a public health emergency of international concern, the UK Chief Medical Officers have raised the risk to the public from low to moderate. This permits the UK government to plan for all eventualities although the risk to individuals remains low. Based on the scientific advice of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) the UK Chief Medical Officers will continue to review and as required by the spread of COVID-19, update their advice to travelers to the UK. This may include the requirement to self-isolate for 14 days and to seek support through NHS 111, even if symptoms (cough or fever or shortness of breath), are mild.

Dependent on an assessment of the volume of air travel from affected areas, the understanding of other travel routes, flight duration, the number of reported cases, the nature of transmission, and public health control measures, a judgement will be made on the most appropriate protocol to be employed by airlines flying from specified areas (the "identified points") further details of those areas [here](#).

Protocol

This protocol has been implemented by Public Health England (PHE) with the Department for Transport (DfT) and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), and airline and airport support and is to be applied to any direct flight from the identified points. It should be read in conjunction with the relevant process flow chart.

The following steps are critical to informing passengers, and the successful conduct of a public health risk assessment for arriving passengers and flight crew, further detail is in the attached table which sets out our requirements with the supporting rationale:

- Provision of information leaflets¹ to passengers (in flight) to enable and encourage reporting of illness if possible.
- Broadcasting of an inflight message encouraging passengers to report any inflight illness if possible.
- It is the responsibility of the Commander of an aircraft in transit from an identified point to advise the destination airport of any ill passenger as soon as possible.

Provision of a General Aircraft Declaration (GAD) as per the relevant airport SOP and to the PHE Health Control Unit at LHR

¹ Available through <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101/resources/4992>



- , in the event that there is an unwell passenger. Airlines may use their own GAD or a generic form can be found [here](#).
- If a passenger is confirmed as a suspected coronavirus case, passengers and crew will be required to complete a Passenger Locator Form (PLF)² prior to disembarkation.
- In the event of an unwell passenger or suspected case on board, disembarkation can only follow clearance by PHE or local health responder in accordance with the COVID19 NOTAM issued by airports, and the Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations 1979

These steps are also being set out in a supporting NOTAM action. Airports and PHE, in close liaison with DfT and CAA, will conduct a regular weekly performance review with all affected airlines, to review compliance and agree improvement actions.

If you have any queries in relation to the above please email airportpublichealth.monitoring@phe.gov.uk

² See enclosure.



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Serial	Action	How	Measure of Effectiveness	Rationale
	Prior to embarkation			
1	SMS/Email passengers with PHE COVID-19 message as available	Airline/Airport. PHE provides the text	Message received by all passengers who have registered their mobile/email address with the airline	To prevent travel by symptomatic passengers
	IN FLIGHT			
2	Provision of PHE information leaflet to passengers as available	Via cabin crew	All passengers receive leaflet (language specific to need)	To remind passengers of COVID19 symptoms (and what to do if post arrival they have concerns)
3	Broadcasting of an inflight message ³ encouraging passengers to report any inflight illness as available	Aircraft Commander	Message broadcast. Timing (GMT) of message to be recorded.	To encourage passengers to self-declare in the event that they have COVID19 symptoms, or other illness that may require a medical incident response at the destination airport
4	Destination airport advised of any passenger illness as soon as possible as per airline and airport SOPs	Aircraft Commander	As soon as possible. Timing (in GMT) and content of message to be recorded.	To anticipate and adjust health incident response to meet reported situation. To save time and most effectively focus limited resources.
5	In the event of an unwell passenger, the aircraft provides a General Aircraft Declaration (GAD) as per local processes and to LHR HCU	Aircraft Commander	Completed at point of arrival	Accords with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) agreements and International Health Regulations expectations to report the presence or otherwise of infectious disease
6	SMS/Email passengers with PHE COVID-19 message as available	Airline/Airport. PHE provides the text	Message received by all passengers who have registered their mobile/email with the airline	To signpost passengers to healthcare if they become symptomatic
	SYMPTOMS REPORTED			

³ In accordance with Public Health England guidance.



Serial	Action	How	Measure of Effectiveness	Rationale
7	If symptoms reported enable communications from public health and/or medical professionals to the symptomatic patient.	Aircraft Commander;	Direct communications enabled with public health and/or medical professional. Accurate situation report received.	To inform medical diagnosis and public health risk assessment To anticipate and adjust health incident response to meet reported situation. To save time and most effectively focus limited resources.
8	If symptoms reported Isolate passenger if possible	Cabin crew	Passenger(s) isolated, International Air Transport Association (IATA) guidance is available to work against	To mitigate risk of further contact with others
7	If symptoms reported Distribute Passenger Locator Forms (PLF) to passengers and crew if/as advised by public health and/or medical professionals	Cabin crew	PLF's made available to Public Health England Health Protection Team [See attached PDF version]	To enable contact tracing should it be required To reassure passengers
	If symptoms reported Disembarkation only be authorised by PHE or local health responder			To mitigate health risk in accordance with the COVID19 NOTAM issued by airports, and the Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations 1979

Enclosure: 1. Health Assurance and Passenger Locator Form (English version).



Health Assurance and
Passenger Locator Fo