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Prevention of the introduction of Cholera in the Republic of Mauritius

1. Introduction

Cholera is a major health risk in many parts of the world, affecting millions of people every year. Due to the outbreak of cholera in the different part of the world, Mauritius has implemented preventive measures to reduce the risk of the introduction of Cholera in Mauritius.

The purpose of this Aeronautical Information Circular is to inform all concerned of the procedures laid down at the airport to reduce the risk of the introduction of cholera into the Republic of Mauritius

All suspected cases of cholera must be notified to the Director Health Services (Public Health).

2. Symptoms

Cholera can be an extremely virulent disease. Most people infected do not develop any symptoms, although the bacteria are present in their faeces for 1–10 days after infection and are shed back into the environment, potentially infecting other people.

Among people who develop symptoms, the majority have mild or moderate symptoms. It takes between 12 hours and 5 days for a person to show symptoms. A minority of patients develop acute watery diarrhoea with severe dehydration. This can lead to death if left untreated.

3. Precautionary measures at the airport

In general, particulars of all disembarking passenger's / crew members, having visited high risk countries where Cholera and other communicable diseases are endemic, are captured through the All-In-One-Digital-Travel-Form and are referred to respective Health Offices for health surveillance at their level.

4. Passengers Identified at the Health Counter

Passengers identified as suspect cases at the health counter will be referred to the Airport Medical Officer for assessment.

The suspected passenger will follow the fast track for evacuation to designated hospital Isolation Ward.

5. Suspected case on board incoming flight

Pilots of all arriving aircraft are required to report any suspected case of the disease on board their aircraft to the appropriate ATS Unit in Mauritius well in advance of arrival. The plane will be channelled to a separate parking bay.

The Cabin crew will wear impermeable gowns and disposable gloves when dealing with the suspected passenger and follow hygiene protocols on glove removal.

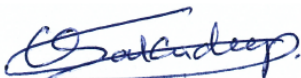
The suspected passenger will be kept separately from other passengers, and will be provided with a designated toilet for exclusive use and tissues and plastic bags for disposal of same for incineration thereafter.

All passengers except the suspected one and the identified contacts will disembark. The Airport Medical team will board the aircraft wearing protective equipment and surgical mask. The suspected cases will be interviewed systematically to gather detailed information.

After the assessment, the suspected cases will wear impermeable gowns and will be transferred to a designated hospital Isolation Ward by an ambulance parked on the tarmac using fast track, accompanied by a Nursing Officer.

Under the supervision of the Public Health and Food Safety Inspectorate, the following will be carried out:

- 1) Disinfection of aircraft will be carried out according to the WHO aircraft disinfection methods and procedures as stipulated by International Health Regulations (2005);
- 2) Surveillance of disposal of stools/liquid wastes; and
- 3) Disinfection / disinsectisation / deratisation at waste disposal sites.



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for Director of Civil Aviation