

Global Trade Security Depends on Implementation of the Revised International Health Regulations

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Health Alert Notice

건강 경보 공지사항

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健康に関する注意喚起

緊急保健通告

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



CDC

Disclaimer

- The positions expressed in this presentation are those of the author and not necessarily of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Overview of Presentation

- Global trade security and the IHR
- Opportunities for trade and tourism stakeholders to help address challenges to IHR implementation
- Informal stakeholders' reactions
- Possible framework for action and next steps



Global Trade Security- Provisional Definition

- Stable trading environment
 - Safe and unhindered travel and transport
 - Stability of supply and distribution chains
 - Continuity of business operations
 - Safety of imports and exports



Flight cancellations in Singapore during SARS outbreak, 2003

Time Flight	Destination Gate	Status
17:00 GA 850	Singapore 18	Est at 10:10
	Jakarta	
17:20 MU 598	Shanghai/Pudong	Cancelled
17:45 KA 894	Shanghai/Pudong	Cancelled
17:50 KA 430	Kaohsiung	Cancelled
17:50 KA 604	Xiamen	Cancelled
17:50 KA 904	Beijing	Cancelled
17:55 KA 700	Gulin	Cancelled
17:55 MU 5020	Nanjing	96 Now Boarding
18:00 CA 420	Chongqing	64
18:00 MU 204	Xian	26 Boarding Soon
18:00 PR 307	Manila	24
18:05 AI 315	Delhi	33 Boarding Soon
	Mumbai	
18:05 KA 660	Fuzhou	Cancelled
18:20 CX 402	Taipei	67
18:25 MU 510	Shanghai/Pudong	19
18:30 SQ 865	Singapore	23 Boarding Soon
18:35 KA 622	Hangzhou	Cancelled
18:40 AC 008	Vancouver	Cancelled
	Toronto	
18:45 CI 616	Taipei	28
18:50 TG 633	Bangkok	42
18:55 KA 812	Nanjing	Cancelled
19:10 CX 111	Sydney	47

Time Flight	Destination Gate	Status
19:10 CX 135	Melbourne	Cancelled
19:10 OF 088	Melbourne	18
19:15 MU 538	Shanghai/Pudong	15
19:15 NZ 070	Auckland	35
	LH 9810	
19:20 KA 906	Beijing	Cancelled
19:20 SQ 869	Singapore	Cancelled
19:25 BR 872	Taipei	Cancelled
19:25 CZ 3078	Haikou	32
19:40 MJ 119	Manila	21
19:40 CA 116	Beijing	Cancelled
19:40 CX 468	Taipei	Cancelled
19:40 CX 913	Manila	Cancelled
19:45 CI 642	Taipei	25
19:50 MU 7002	Taiyuan	Cancelled
20:00 CX 715	Singapore	Cancelled
20:00 UA 805	Singapore	Cancelled
20:05 CI 616	Kaohsiung	28
20:10 CZ 3078	Guangzhou	30
20:10 OF 068	Brisbane	Cancelled
	Sydney	
20:15 KA 806	Shanghai/Pudong	29
20:15 TG 630	Taipei	Cancelled
20:25 CX 107	Auckland	1
	BA 4551	

Time Flight	Destination Gate	Status
20:35 KA 438	Kaohsiung	Cancelled
20:45 CX 464	Taipei	Cancelled
20:45 TG 607	Bangkok	42
20:50 CI 616	Taipei	Cancelled
20:50 CZ 3032	Gulin	32
21:00 BR 858	Taipei	38
21:05 PR 311	Manila	
21:10 OF 128	Sydney	19
21:45 KA 434	Kaohsiung	27
21:45 KA 488	Taipei	Cancelled
21:50 CX 408	Taipei	4
21:50 CX 905	Manila	31
21:55 CI 672	Kaohsiung	
21:55 SQ 002	San Francisco	
22:00 VN 763	Ho Chi Minh	
	CX 763	
22:05 CI 666	Taipei	Cancelled
22:05 CX 700	Bangkok	Cancelled
22:25 EK 383	Bangkok	62
	Dubai	
22:55 CX 462	Taipei	Cancelled
23:10 LH 731	Munich	Cancelled
	NZ 4631	
23:20 CX 103	Calne	
	Brisbane	



IHR Importance to Global Trade Security

- IHR algorithm criteria for notification to WHO of possible Public Health Emergency of International Concern:
 - Event is serious
 - Event is unusual or unexpected
 - Significant risk of international spread
 - Significant risk of international travel or trade restrictions



Premises

- Trade and tourism stakeholders have a vested interest in IHR implementation but may not realize it!
- This interest can be leveraged with public health interests to help implement the IHR



Trade and Tourism Stakeholders

- Businesses, especially multinational corporations
 - Risk management
 - Occupational safety and health
 - Their associated non-profit foundations
- In-country businesses, including smaller enterprises
- Industry and trade associations
- Ministries of Trade and Tourism
- International trade, tourism, transport, economic development organizations



Technical Challenges to IHR Implementation

- Building core public health capacity at points of entry and throughout the country
 - Also useful for more common events that do not meet IHR criteria for WHO notification
- Countries need funds, equipment, supplies, technical assistance, political will



The REALLY Tough Challenges for IHR Implementation

- Economic disincentives to transparency and disease control measures
 - Harm to a tourist or export industry
 - Cost of seized or destroyed goods
 - Direct cost of public health interventions



Trade/Tourism Stakeholders Can Help Address the Technical Challenges

- Assist public health capacity building by supporting national IHR implementation plans
 - Advocacy
 - PH capacity is important for business and the national interest, regardless of the IHR
 - Joint planning with public health officials
 - Health communication to employees and families
 - Mentoring of suppliers re preparedness
 - Funding, supplies, expertise, transport capacity



APEC Pandemic Flu Planning Guide for SMEs

A flu (influenza) pandemic is an outbreak of a new flu virus that spreads around the world. Because it is a kind of flu that is new to people, most people will not be protected (immune) from it. A very bad flu pandemic will make people sick and many may die, and will also affect your business. We do not know yet how bad a new flu pandemic will be until it happens. There is no flu pandemic now – but people can plan now to protect themselves, their families, and their businesses.



Stay in Business

- Develop a plan for your business during a pandemic.
- Test, review and update your plan as new information becomes available.
- Work out how to run your business if many of your employees can not come to work.
- Find out if local schools plan to close during a pandemic and the effect that may have on your employees.
- Plan where to get essential business supplies if you cannot get them from your normal sources.
- Plan for changes in demand for your services and products.
- Put some extra cash aside for your business to use in an emergency.
- Think about how you will communicate with employees, suppliers, and other business partners before, during, and after a pandemic.
- Plan how you will work with employees, other business partners, other companies, and the government before, during, and after a flu pandemic.



Protect your People

There may be limited or no access to vaccines and antiviral medications during a pandemic. However, other actions can protect people:

- Share information that will help employees and their families learn about pandemic flu and be ready for pandemic flu.
- People who have flu can spread it to others. Ask employees to stay home if they are sick during a pandemic.
- Most people with the flu will be cared for at home. Prepare to assist employees to care for sick family members at home.
- Slow the spread of disease: cover your nose and mouth with a handkerchief or tissue when coughing or sneezing, and be sure to wash your hands.
- Encourage your employees to wash their hands often with soap and water especially after coughing or sneezing, before eating, drinking, smoking, or touching their face.
- Flu virus can spread easily when people are close together. Plan how you will help your employees avoid large groups, continue working, and keep people apart from each other at your business.
- Wear a mask if health officials tell you to.

Prepare at Home

During a flu pandemic you may not be able to get to a store or market. Your town may not be able to get water to your home or business.

Stock up on:

- extra food that will not spoil;
- food and supplies for children;
- clean water to last for at least 2 weeks or a water purification system;
- flashlight and batteries;
- soap and water to wash hands;
- thermometer;
- handkerchiefs/tissues;
- extra cash;
- key documents and identification (passport, government issued identification, health records, health insurance papers);
- supplies for animals.



Addressing the Economic Challenges-1

- Raise awareness in business & political circles *before* event
 - In the national interest to “quench the spark early”
 - Temporary economic losses are better than inadequate measures leading to a worse problem and loss of trust
 - In the internet age, news and rumors cannot be suppressed indefinitely
- This message likely has more influence on government policy coming from trade sector than public health



Addressing the Economic Challenges-2

- International scheme for partial economic compensation-- in place before event
- Trust fund or insurance product?
 - Modeled on business interruption insurance but for entire communities or industries
 - Subsidized premiums for poor countries
 - Lower premiums if improve public health and emergency management infrastructure
- Private-public partnership



International Mechanism for Partial Compensation

- Many details to be worked out
 - What losses covered?
 - How claims assessed and adjudicated?
 - To whom claims paid?



Business Reactions-1

- Mostly never heard of the IHR
- Immediately understood its importance to them once the issues were explained
- Uncertainty regarding next steps



Business Reactions-2

- Possible actions would vary with country & industry
 - Many would prefer to act via industry groups
- WHO guidance would be useful
 - Enabling business groups to raise IHR with host governments
 - Potential role of business in IHR implementation



Business Reactions-3

- More receptive to response than surveillance issues
 - “Pandemic flu planning was very useful for our company”
- Resource commitments would require better understanding of return on investment
 - Analysis of scenarios-- e.g. overseas factory in a public health emergency
- Little contact with public health in many countries
 - Uncertain how PH would respond in emergency and how to work together



Trade Experts' Thoughts on Raising IHR at Trade Organizations like WTO

- Major Concern: Could become entangled in health-trade controversies, especially drug pricing
- Should not be part of trade agreements
- International trade organizations could be useful venues to raise awareness of the importance of IHR implementation to trade stakeholders



Possible Framework for Action

- Focus on TRADE SECURITY
- Collaboration between public health and trade/tourism stakeholders
 - Possible initiative by major trading nations, WHO- WTO, World Economic Forum, World Bank, Chambers of Commerce?
 - Advocacy, codes of best practice, technical support, addressing economic disincentives





Of Milk, Health and Trade Security

by David M. Bell

THE MELAMINE-contaminated milk that has sickened at least 53,000 infants is the latest public-health emergency to have triggered international concern and highlighted the need for improved global cooperation to prevent, detect and control health threats that may rapidly spread beyond national borders. Other recent examples include contamination of the drug heparin in 2007, the dumping of 500 tons of petrochemical

al GDP. According to the United States Congressional Research Service, trade disruptions during a pandemic could include countries banning goods from infected regions, travel bans due to protective health measures, or supply-side constraints caused by health crises in exporting countries. For these reasons, business, trade, and tourism stakeholders, and those who support them, such as the insurance industry, have a strong vested interest in working with public-health authorities to promote

Far Eastern Economic Review.
October 2008; 171(8);34-7.

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Thank You!

