Sub: Guidelines for crew clearance for COVID-19 during lockdown period -reg

Dear colleagues,

At the outset, I would like to compliment all of you for the excellent work being carried out by State Health Departments for isolation/quarantine, treatment, disinfection, contact tracing etc for COVID-19.

2. Through this letter, the issue relating to the mandatory quarantine of crew members of international cargo flights is being highlighted. Ministry of Civil Aviation has informed this Ministry that some states are quarantining international cargo flights' crew for a period upto 14/28 days during the lockdown period.

3. As all of you are aware, currently only cargo flights are operational and they are carrying critical goods like PPEs, testing kits, masks, drugs and other essential items. In many such cases, the crew including Captains of the flights continue to stay inside the aircraft and do not disembark in foreign lands, but still on return to India they are advised to remain under quarantine for 14/28 days. You would agree that such crew not only has low risk profile, but also quarantining them en-masse would result in reducing the total number of crew available for carrying out the emergency cargo services during this period of crisis.

4. Therefore, you are requested to kindly issue orders to assess the travel history of the crew in foreign lands and assess their risk profile before putting them in quarantine. Such cases may, therefore, be handled on a case to case basis rather than following a generalized procedure.

5. The guidelines already issued in this regard by this Ministry to Ministry of Civil Aviation are attached herewith as ready reference and guidance.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Alok Saxena)

Encl: as above

To

ACS, Principal Secretaries (Health) of all States/UTs

Copy for information

1. Sh. Anil Malik, Addl. Secretary (Foreigners), Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. MD NHM of States

9th Floor, Chandralok Building, 36 Janpath, New Delhi-110001 Tel.: 011-23325343 Fax: 011-23325335 E-mail: js@naco.gov.in

Know your HIV status, go to the nearest Government Hospital for free Voluntary Counselling and Testing
4. Sr. PPS to Secretary (HFW).
5. Sr. PPS to Spl. Secretary (HFW).
6. Sr. PPS to DGHS.
7. Concerned APHOs/RDs/Officer

(Alok Saxena)
Subject: Management of Crew due to COVID-19 outbreak

Dear Rubina ji,

In view of pandemic COVID-19 as declared by WHO as PHEIC (Public Health Emergency of International Concern), following steps are to be taken for crew members for international flights landing at Indian airports:

- The Crew has to fill the Self-Declaration Forms, similar to the passengers.
- The Crew needs to present the Self-Declaration Forms to the Health Authorities and clear the Health Screening at the respective Airports.
- If a crew arrives in India, with symptoms, the crew has to declare the same to the Airport Health officials (APHO) and follow the isolation protocols as directed by the APHO.
- During the stay in India, if the crew develops any signs/symptoms of COVID 19, they should immediately inform APHO for isolation and testing. The airlines should take the responsibility of monitoring the health of the crew members during their stay at India.
- If a laboratory positive case of COVID 19 is found in a flight, the entire crew has to be de-rostered for minimum 14 days. The crew needs to follow home-isolation during the time at their own country.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Alok Saxena)

Ms. Rubina Ali,
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of Civil Aviation,
Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan
New Delhi