



ICAO

NO COUNTRY  
LEFT BEHIND

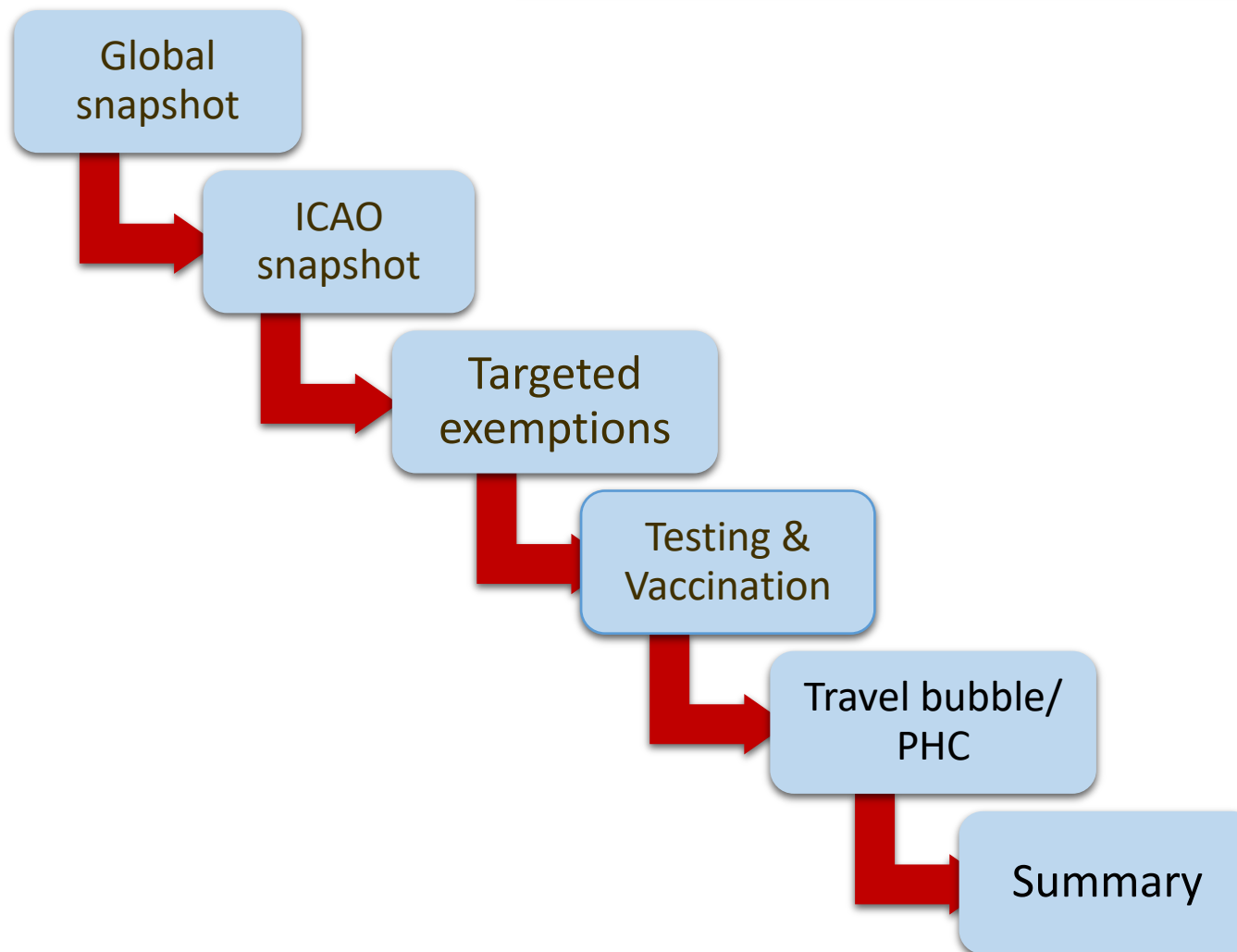


# Current issues and ICAO proposed solutions on resuming air travel safely

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# Overview



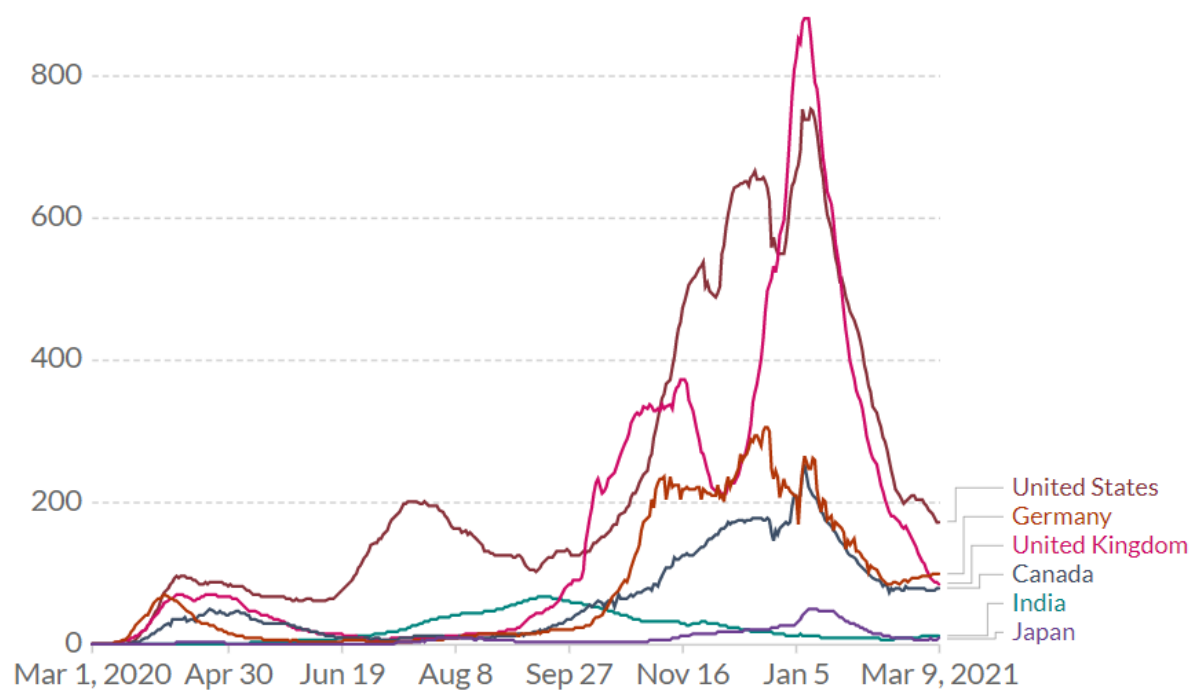


## Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people

Shown is the rolling 7-day average. The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.

Our World in Data

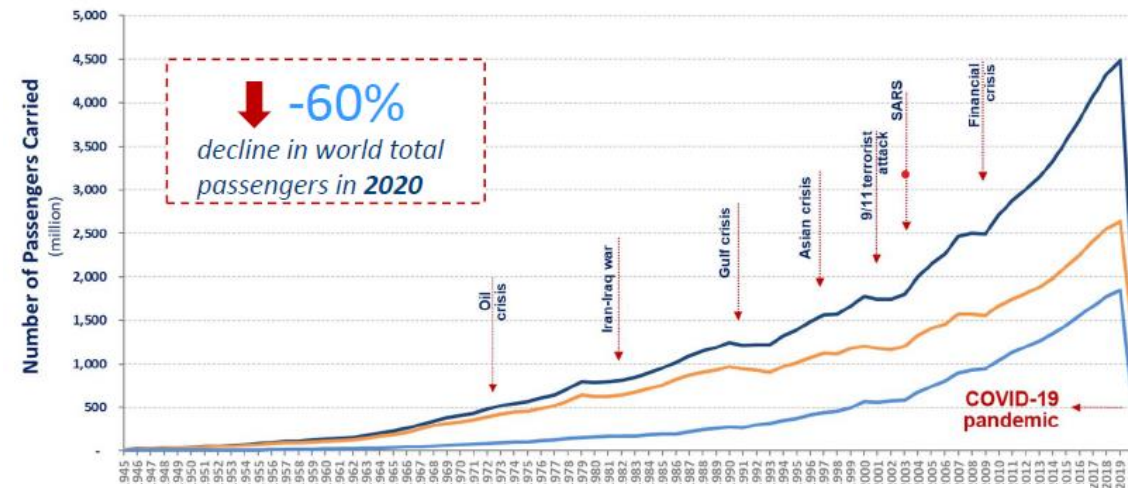
LINEAR LOG



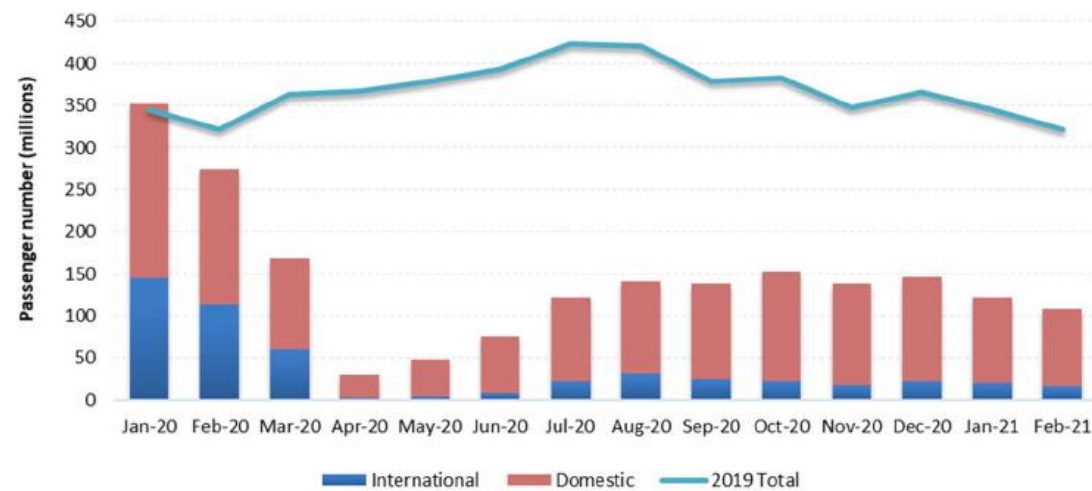
Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data - Last updated 10 March, 10:03 (London time) CC BY

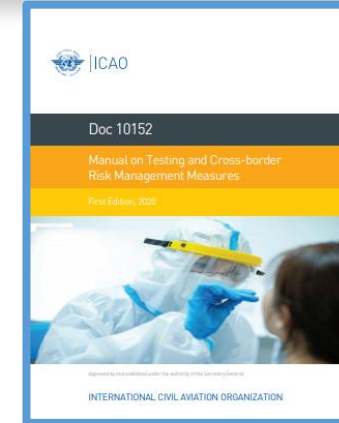
▶ Jan 23, 2020  Mar 9, 2021

## World passenger traffic evolution 1945 – 2020



## Monthly passenger numbers in 2020 vs. 2019





### 3 reports

- 10 key principles
- 20 recommendations

- Public Health
- Aviation safety
- Security & Facilitation
- Testing & Vaccination
- Public Health Corridors
- Communication
- Economic

### *TOGD* *3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*

- General measures
- 4 modules (Airport, aircraft, crew, cargo)
- Hazardous waste
- Mental health
- Forms
- Posters

### *Doc 10152* *2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*

- Risk management
- Epidemiology
- Testing
- Quarantine
- Vaccination
- Implementation
- PHC

### *PHC* *iPack*

Restore international travel by supporting CAAs in sharing information, applying mutually accepted public health measures and concluding bilateral or multilateral agreements





- Alleviations = **extension** of the validity of licenses and certificates
- Replaced by **Targeted Exemptions** System from 1 April
- States encouraged to return to **normal operations**
- TE system available for at least one year – limited in scope
- Guidance in OPS Normal website
- Medical certification
  - **Template** to States
  - **Guidance material** to assist with implementation
  - TEs only for issues imposed by the **COVID-19 pandemic**, and not in response to systemic issues
  - Based on risk assessment
  - Flexibility should **not be considered the "new normal"**
  - New applicants and high-risk existing medical certificate holders = **full in-person medical examinations**



## Medical alternatives

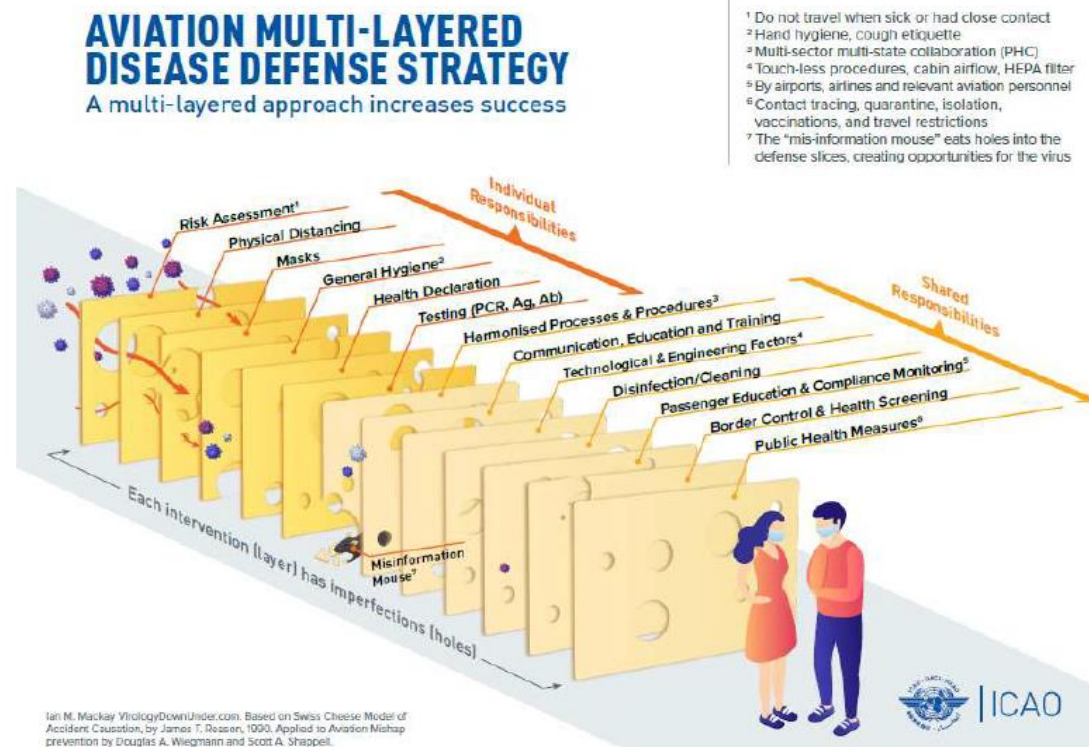
Limited/ partial physical examinations

Tele-medicine

Health declarations

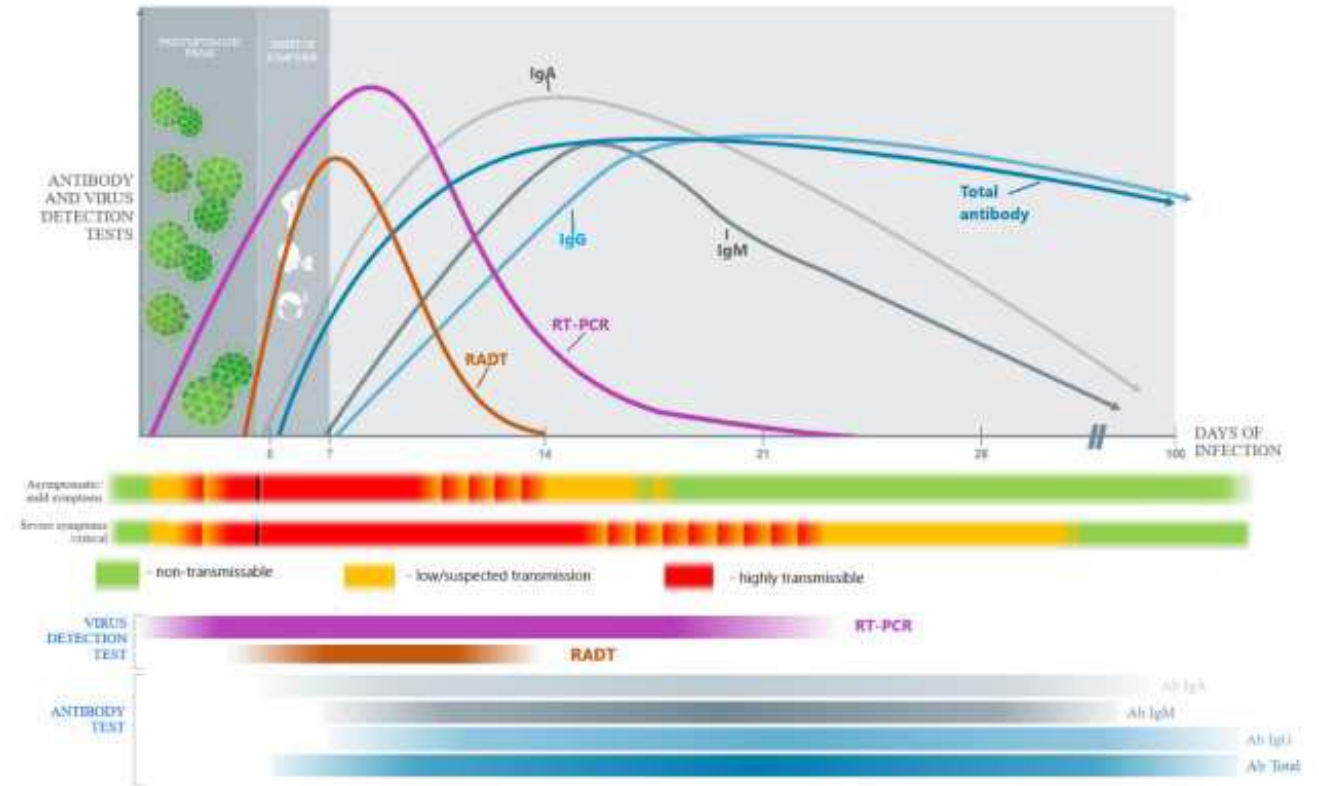


- **Risk and evidence-based** approach
- Support States to implement a **multi-layer** risk management strategy
- First edition November 2020, second edition in March 2021
- **Consultation:** CAPSCA, CART WG members and WHO
- Swiss Cheese aviation multi-layer risk mitigation framework
- Testing protocols updated - latest scientific knowledge
- Standardization and validation of testing certificates
- New section on vaccination & vaccination protocols for aviation workers
- Expanded section on Public Health Corridors (PHC)
- **Living document with regular updates** as technology advances and evidence evolves





Problem	Mitigation
Differentiation: aviation crew & pax	Based on risk assessment
Reason for testing	Type of test Time of administration
Acceptance of test results	Testing protocols Minimum dataset Verification of certificates Interoperability
Mutual recognition to open travel	Public Health Corridors
Effect on travel restrictions	Evidence-based Collaboration Communication





## The knowns

- Reduce the number and severity of cases
- Protective effect for individuals
- Plays a role in bringing the pandemic under control
- May also play an important role in aviation recovery as the vaccinated proportion of the global population increases over time.
- Aviation workers: vaccinated when moderate vaccine availability and 21% - 50% of the national population has been vaccinated (WHO).
- Manual: guidance on considerations for vaccination and post vaccination protocols
- Evidence of vaccination to be provided in accordance with national guidelines

## The unknowns and problems

- Global access
- Effectiveness against virus transmission
- Extent and duration of immunity
- Vaccination records vs immunity passports
- Mandatory vs voluntary vaccination
- Potential effect on travel restrictions

## The solution

- Ongoing monitoring of evidence
- Update multilayer risk mitigation framework and other ICAO tools
- Publish additional guidance material





- A PHC **opens one or more routes** between cities, regions and States
- Also referred to as ‘travel bubbles’ or ‘air bridges’
- Necessitates **sharing of information** and bilateral/ multilateral discussions
- Formed through **mutual recognition of public health mitigation measures between States**
- Guidance contained in the updated TOGD and the *ICAO Manual on Testing and Cross Border Risk Management Measures*
- ICAO facilitates implementation of PHCs through the ICAO **Implementation Package (iPack)** on establishing a PHC





## PHC Objectives

- Ensure **continued flight** operations with minimal restrictions on aircraft operations
- **Mitigate the spread** of COVID-19 through air travel
- Protect the **health and safety** of crew and passengers
- **Harmonized** procedures and requirements
- Open travel within and between States to **resume normal travel**

## I-pack objectives

- Assess implementation, conduct a **gap analysis** and determine an action plan
- Develop a COVID-19 aviation risk assessment framework - **sovereign principles & integration**
- Manage the risk of transporting infectious passengers or translocating the virus
- Implement a **multi-layer risk management strategy** (evidence & performance based)
- **Share mitigation measures and best practices** – global harmonisation
- Engage in bilateral or multilateral discussions – **establishing PHCs**

## Current status

- Manual includes elements of a crew & passenger journey
- Implementation of a PHC Arrangement between States
- Tools on website
- PHC Webinars
- PHC APP **templates** on CRRIC
- **SME** assistance
- Workshop: Pre-learning on-line
- Practical hands-on experience
- First **roll-out to States 3 May**



## Public Health Corridor Application (PHC App)

- Online tool to facilitate the conclusion of PHC between States (bilateral/multilateral)
- On the CRRIC Website
- Contains:
  - PHC Arrangement template (suggested best practices for provisions to be included)
  - Appendix A: Scope of the PHC (flights, capacity, etc.)
  - Appendix B: Disease Translocator Risk Level (traffic light categorization)
  - Appendix C: Measures of a mutually agreed Multi-layer Risk Management Strategy
- Highly-customizable; generates arrangement for print or further editing

Select a State or Region:  
 APAC  
 Add State(s)  
 Clear all

### Public Health Corridor

Partner List:

#### General Provisions

Background

In response to the criticality of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government/Administration of [State A] and the Government/Administration of [State B] (hereinafter, "the Parties") have agreed to establish a Public Health Corridor (herein referred to as "PHC") outlining a framework of commonly agreed measures for safe air travel between the Parties.

[Read more/less](#)

#### Appendix A - Routes

*In order to start your arrangement, please input the operators and airport information in order to identify the routes to be established.*

This arrangement is applicable to the following operators and routes as applicable.

Operator Name and code	From Airport Name and Code	To Airport Name and Code	Weekly passenger capacity
Any	Any	Any	Any

Add



Obstacles to resuming travel	Proposed solutions
Communication	CART recommendation, results of the survey, feedback from States, HLCC
Differentiation between passengers and crew	Separate risk assessments - Doc 10152
Dynamic changing environment (variants, epidemiology, reporting)	Constant revision of guidance as new scientific evidence becomes available & updating – Doc 10152
Complexities relating to testing, vaccination and quarantine	Manage test protocols & results, vaccination protective effect, vaccination & virus transmission unknown, vaccination not mandatory, quarantine definition and duration
Standardization of testing and vaccination certificates	ICAO dataset for testing certificates, national protocols, IHR
Lifting of restrictions	Implementing PHC, constant revision of guidance as new scientific evidence becomes available & updating





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THANK YOU