

MEASURES TAKEN IN QATAR DURING THE EARLY PERIOD OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC FROM THE AVIATION HEALTH & SAFETY PERSPECTIVE

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The following¹ are well known concerning the start of the outbreak of the virus which has now caused the COVID-19 pandemic:

- ❑ 31st December 2019- cases of pneumonia of unknown cause from Wuhan City, China reported to WHO Country Office in China.
- ❑ 7th January 2020 - A new type of coronavirus was isolated and then identified by Chinese authorities.
- ❑ 11th and 12th January 2020 further information was received by WHO tracing the outbreak to one seafood and live animal market in Wuhan City.
- ❑ 13th January 2020 – first imported case of lab-confirmed novel coronavirus (now called COVID-19) reported in Thailand.
- ❑ 15th January & 20th January – first imported cases of COVID-19 reported in Japan & Korea, respectively.

On 30th January 2020, COVID-19 was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) by WHO².

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From the beginning of the outbreak of COVID-19 even before it became a pandemic, the authorities in Qatar had been closely monitoring the situation.

From the health perspective this involved multisectoral collaboration as led by the Qatar Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) with full participation by Qatar Civil Aviation Authority (QCAA) as represented by the Aeromedical unit of the Air Safety Department.

In Qatar there was early activation of the National Pandemic Preparedness Committee spearheaded by the Qatar Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) with active engagement of Qatar Civil Aviation Authority (QCAA) through its Aeromedical unit and other stakeholders for planning and action as early as 21st January 2020. This was more than a week before the first recorded case of COVID-19 in the Middle East region (WHO-EMRO)³.

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An example of some of the initial multisectoral measures⁴ taken from early February 2020 (even before the first confirmed COVID-19 case in Qatar) include:

- Temporary suspension (2 weeks) of all QR flights from some routes pending health measures⁶.
- Deployment of thermal screening devices by HIA for entry screening of all arriving passengers.
- Entry screening of all arrivals into Doha with identification and further assessment of passengers with high temperature by Qatar Ministry of Public Health (MOPH).
- Qatar MOPH and PHCC 24-hour daily operation of HIA Clinic at Arrival Airside designated to handling only COVID-19 related cases.
- Qatar Ministry of Interior (MOI) Passports/Immigration Dept. support with entry screening by conducting inquiries to identify passengers with history of travel to “hotspot areas” within previous 14 days.
- All passengers identified with history of travel to “hotspot areas” within previous 14 days referred by MOI to HIA Clinic at Arrival Airside for further assessment by MOPH & PHCC officials.
- In-flight pax announcements mandated for QR and other operators’ incoming flights from “hotspot” countries.
- QCAA enforcement of the use of Passenger Locator Cards (PLC) and General Health Declaration forms by passengers.
- Qatar MOPH issuance of “Interim Guidelines for COVID-19” including case definitions, reporting of suspected cases, IPC, contacts follow up recommendations.
- Direct participation of QCAA team with Qatar MOPH Pandemic Preparedness team to identify the point at which the transmission of COVID-19 required a change in strategy to identify other countries with increased transmission and to handle incoming flights with adequate measures.

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(Annex-1)

Reporting Ill Passengers Form					
Flight Number:					
Airlines:					
Departure Airport:					
Destination Airport:					
Estimated Time of Arrival:					
Number of Persons on Board:					
Number of Suspected Case(s) on Board:					
Location/ Seating of suspected case(s)					
Seat Number					
Seat Number					
Seat Number					
Seat Number					
Seat Number					
Seat Number					
Nature of the Public Health Risk (brief description of reported symptoms):					

(Table-1. MOPH Reporting Ill Passengers Form)

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(Annex-2): Public Health Declaration From at air travel Point of Entry

Due to the overgrowing concerns in regard to the latest COVID-19 outbreak, Qatar's Ministry of Public Health has taken a few measures joining other countries to ensure passengers' safety and limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Please fill accurately with all the required details. We would also like to take your flight details, your contact number and address in case of new developments.

Full Name:		If Resident of Qatar, QID Number:	
Nationality:		Passport Number:	
Qatari Mobile Number:		Age: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
If no Qatari number, provide <i>WhatsApp</i> number with international key:		Address in Qatar (Blue Plate if available):	
For the last flight, please provide the following information:		Hotel/ Host Name and Address:	
Flight number:		Purpose of travel from Doha:	
Seat number:		Purpose of travel from Doha to Doha:	
Airlines:		<input type="checkbox"/> Residents <input type="checkbox"/> New Work Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Business Visit	
Departure From:		<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism Visit <input type="checkbox"/> Transient Visit <input type="checkbox"/> Official Mission	
Date of arrival:	d d m m y y y y	<input type="checkbox"/> Diplomat <input type="checkbox"/> Sport Teams	
Final Destination:		<input type="checkbox"/> Others:	
Do you have fever, cough or shortness of breath ?		In the last 14 days , have you been in a close contact, or living in a household with person with any of the followings: fever, cough or shortness of breath	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Do have any of the following medical conditions:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> Kidney disease <input type="checkbox"/> Heart disease <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer <input type="checkbox"/> Acute respiratory illness			
<input type="checkbox"/> Any condition or medications affecting immunity <input type="checkbox"/> (specify): <input type="checkbox"/> Others:			
Did you, have any test for COVID-19 test during the (last 14 days) ? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
If Yes , Result: <input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative Country: Facility:			
Detected by Thermal Scanner		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Table -2: MOPH Public Health Declaration Form at Air Travel PoE

Travel history declaration for past 14 days:

Please note that giving any misleading information will put you at risk of legal action.

Please list all countries where you have been in the past 14 days :		
1.	3.	5.
2.	4.	6.

I ACKNOWLEDGE and ACCEPT that this Declaration will be considered as my consent to disclose, share, record and store this Declaration with any relevant authority or service provider for the purposes of ensuring the safety and security of any and all third parties that may come in contact with me prior, during, after any flight.

Name: **Date and signature:**

OFFICIAL USE ONLY	Temperature if required: (.....)
Final Classification:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't fit the criteria (Cleared) <input type="checkbox"/> Guest Facility <input type="checkbox"/> Home Isolation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sick passenger transferred by Ambulance <input type="checkbox"/> Passenger choose to proceed to another destination. <input type="checkbox"/> Others	

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In March 2020 under the direction of the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management (a high-level inter-ministerial body) took over the strategic control and management of the country's efforts to address COVID-19⁵ using a “**whole government approach**”⁸ to address multiple domains for the State of Qatar.

Following some stabilization and control of the spread of the virus, a controlled Four-Phased plan to lift the restrictions (starting from 15th June 2020) was announced⁷.

Apart from the above QCAA continued to participate in one form or the other, with the following as examples of some of the steps taken directly by QCAA:

- QCAA actively engaged with the Qatar Ministry of Public Health to release a joint QCAA/MOPH document of guidelines in June 2020 “Aviation COVID-19 Health Safety Guidelines”^{*}.
- Formation of a QCAA COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation (CRRIC) team to ensure implementation of ICAO guidelines^{**}.

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COVID-19 AVIATION GUIDELINES FOR AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES

Guidelines for the implementation of safety and health measures related to COVID-19.

Operational guidelines intended for the guidance of the Air Navigation Services industry in Qatar towards resumption of regular operations.

Issue Number: 1.0
Issue Date: 21 July 2020



COVID-19 AVIATION HEALTH SAFETY GUIDELINES

Operational Guidelines for the Management of Air Passengers and Aviation Personnel in Relation to the COVID-19 Pandemic



The Qatar Civil Aviation Authority in collaboration with Ministry of Public Health has issued operational guidelines intended for the guidance of the aviation industry in Qatar towards resumption of regular aviation operations.

Issue No: 2
Date: 30 April 2021



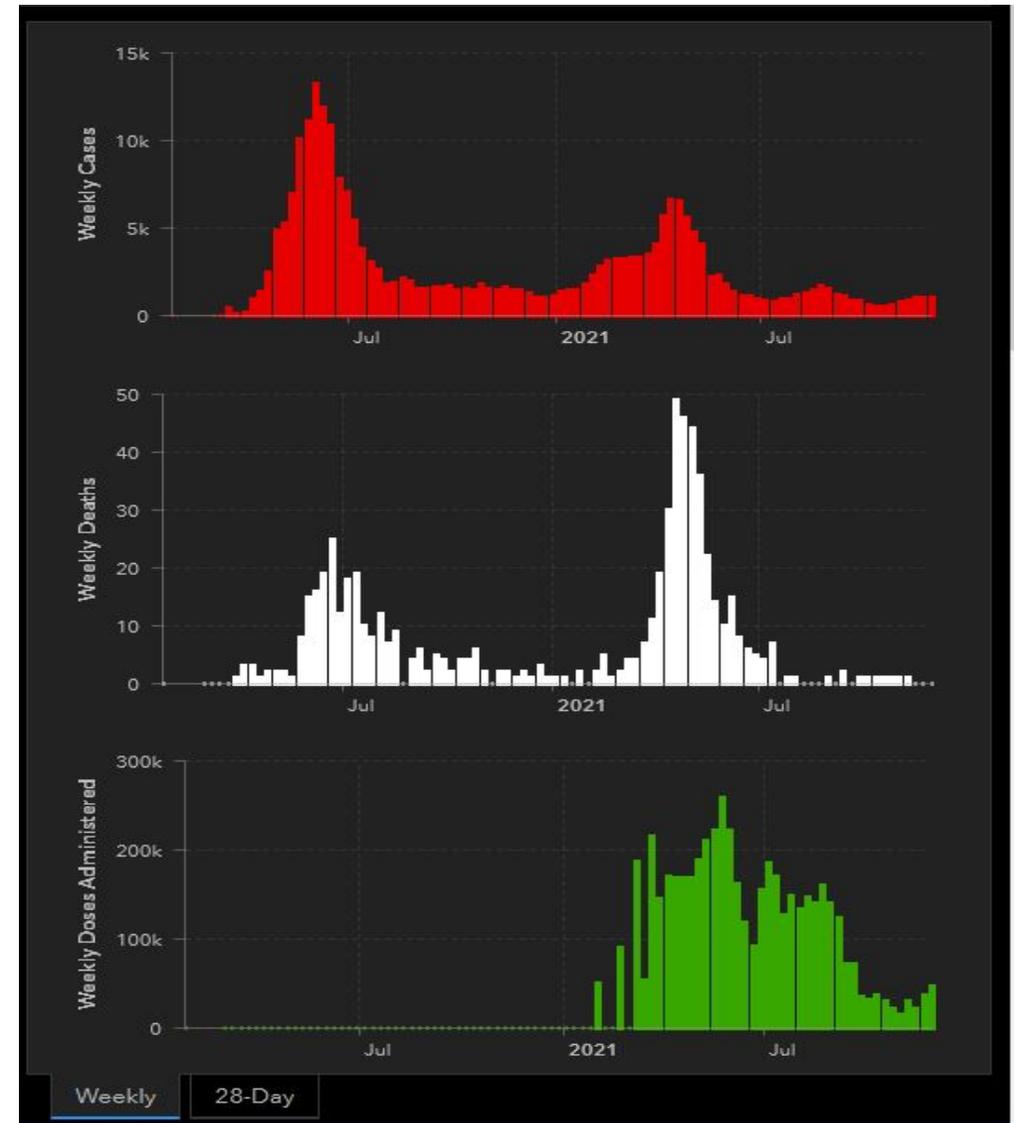
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- QCAA requested for the development and submission of recovery plans from the various operators under its oversight inclusive of their various hazard identification and risk assessments.*
- In view of the global conditions concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, QCAA issued limited, time-based exemptions as applicable (with appropriate mitigating measures) to its Class 1 medical certificate holders (excluding those with safety-related medical restrictions)**.
- Engagement with the airline operators to provide guidelines for observing appropriate and safe grounding period for their aircrew after receiving the approved COVID-19 vaccinations because of possible temporary side effects of vaccine administration.

From the health and safety perspective of QCAA's efforts in handling the COVID-19 global pandemic, the successes achieved so far have been based on the principles of multisectoral collaboration and communication. The steps taken were in line with evidence-based considerations which were subjected to continuous review and associated with hazard identification and risk management at the different levels both with the Authority (QCAA), the operators, and other stakeholders.

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- Peak for weekly cases on 31st May 2020 at 13,196⁹.
- Peak for weekly deaths on 18th April 2021 at 49⁹.
- Case fatality ratio is 0.25%⁹ [as of 6th December 2021].
- Percentage vaccination is 85.5% for two doses¹⁰ [as of 6th December 2021].
- Total number of vaccine booster (third) doses administered is 130038¹⁰ [as of 6th December 2021].



COVID-19 Dashboard by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University (JHU)

Last Updated at (M/D/YYYY) 12/6/2021, 7:22 AM	Total Cases 244,223	Total Deaths 611	Total Vaccine Doses Administered 5,011,447
Cases Deaths by Country/Region /Sovereignty	28-Day Cases 4,076	28-Day Deaths 0	28-Day Vaccine Doses Administered 156,948

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