

CAPSCA EUR-MID/12



Public Health Emergencies in Aviation

A local perspective on infectious outbreaks

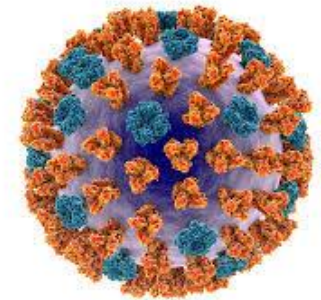
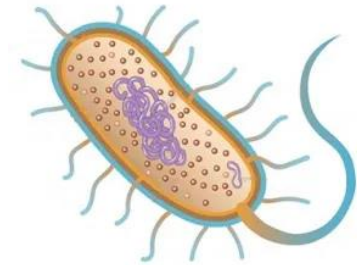
Cairo, 20 October 2025

Maria João Martins

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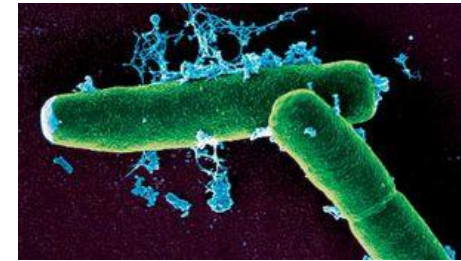
- **2001 Antrax**
- **2003 SARS**
- **2009 AH1N1nv**
- **2014 Ebola**
- **2020 - 2023 COVID-19**
- **2025 – CAPSCA EURO-MID/12**



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- 2000 the Public Health Authority joined the Airport Emergency Committee
- 2001 Antrax - white powder
- First suspected case was on an aircraft at Lisbon Airport (28/9/2001)
 - Airport Emergency Committee (EC) activated for the 1st time for a Public Health event
 - Lab result only the next day (no PCR at the time)
 - The plane was authorized to fly by the Minister of Health himself
 - PHA – risk communication to the crew and to the passengers (POR and ENG)
- Last suspected case at Lisbon Airport with EC activation - July 7, 2005 (7:00 am)
- Airport Contingency Plan for Antrax – 1st Public Health Contingency Plan as an annex to Airport Emergency Plan
- No cases in Portugal until today



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- **2003 SARS**

- **The Friend Maker - Civil Aviation**



- **Public Health**



- **2004 Twelfth Session of the Facilitation Division of ICAO (Cairo) – Passenger Locator Form**
- **International Health Regulations - IHR (2005)**
- **2006 – Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA)**

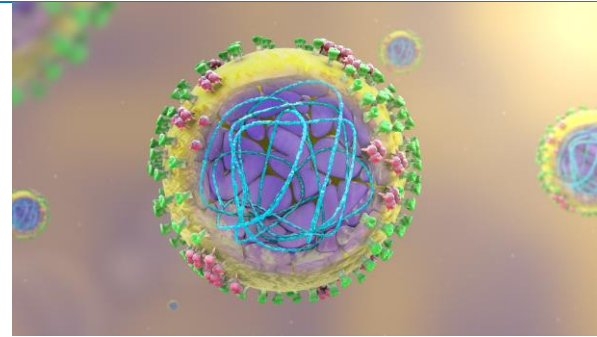
- **1st national guidance for air travelers (aimed at travelers and all stakeholders)**
 - **Airport Contingency Plan for SARS**

- **No cases in Portugal**

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- **2009 AH1N1nv – Pandemic**



- **National guidance for air travelers (aimed at travelers and all stakeholders)**
 - **Airport Contingency Plan for AH1N1nv Flu**
 - **No cases detected at Points of Entry**
 - **First 37 diagnosed cases were imported - air travel**



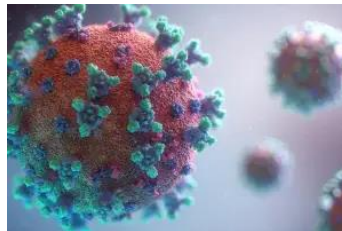
- **2014 Ebola – Public Health Emergency International Concern (PHEIC)**
 - National guidance for air travelers (aimed at travelers and all stakeholders)
 - Airport Preparedness and Response plan for Ebola
 - 9 suspected cases in Portugal – all detected at Lisbon airport
 - No cases in Portugal



Public health emergencies in aviation: managing startle and surprise

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- **2020 COVID-19 – Public Health Emergency International Concern (PHEIC)**
- **National guidance for air travelers (aimed at travelers and all stakeholders)**
- **Airport Preparedness and Response plan for COVID-19**
 - presented at Lisbon Airport FALSEC meeting on January 30, 2020 (1st cases – 2/3/2020)
 - updated monthly in the first 2 months and each one or two weeks from April 2020 onwards
- **PLF**
- **Tests (crews excluded)**
- **Masks**
- **Contact tracing - Quarantine**
- **Travel legislation coming out every week (national and EU)**



➤ **Long COVID ?**

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- **2025 – CAPSCA EURO-MID/12**

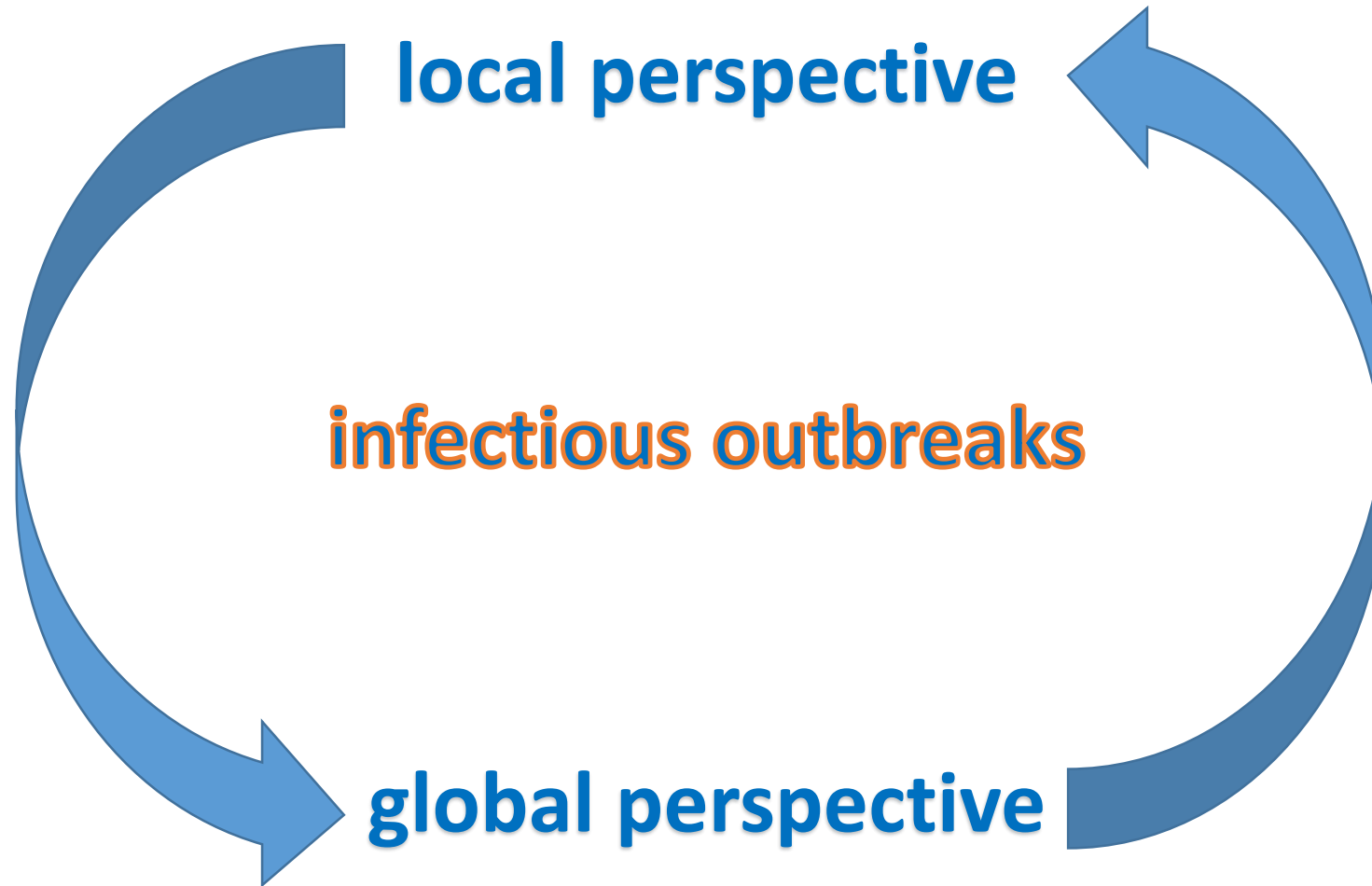
As for Civil Aviation

Airports are local levels where infectious outbreaks (or any other public health event) may occur

- The coordination between partners and stakeholders must have the commitment of everyone
- Articulation with external (local, regional, national and international) authorities and entities must also be ensured whenever necessary



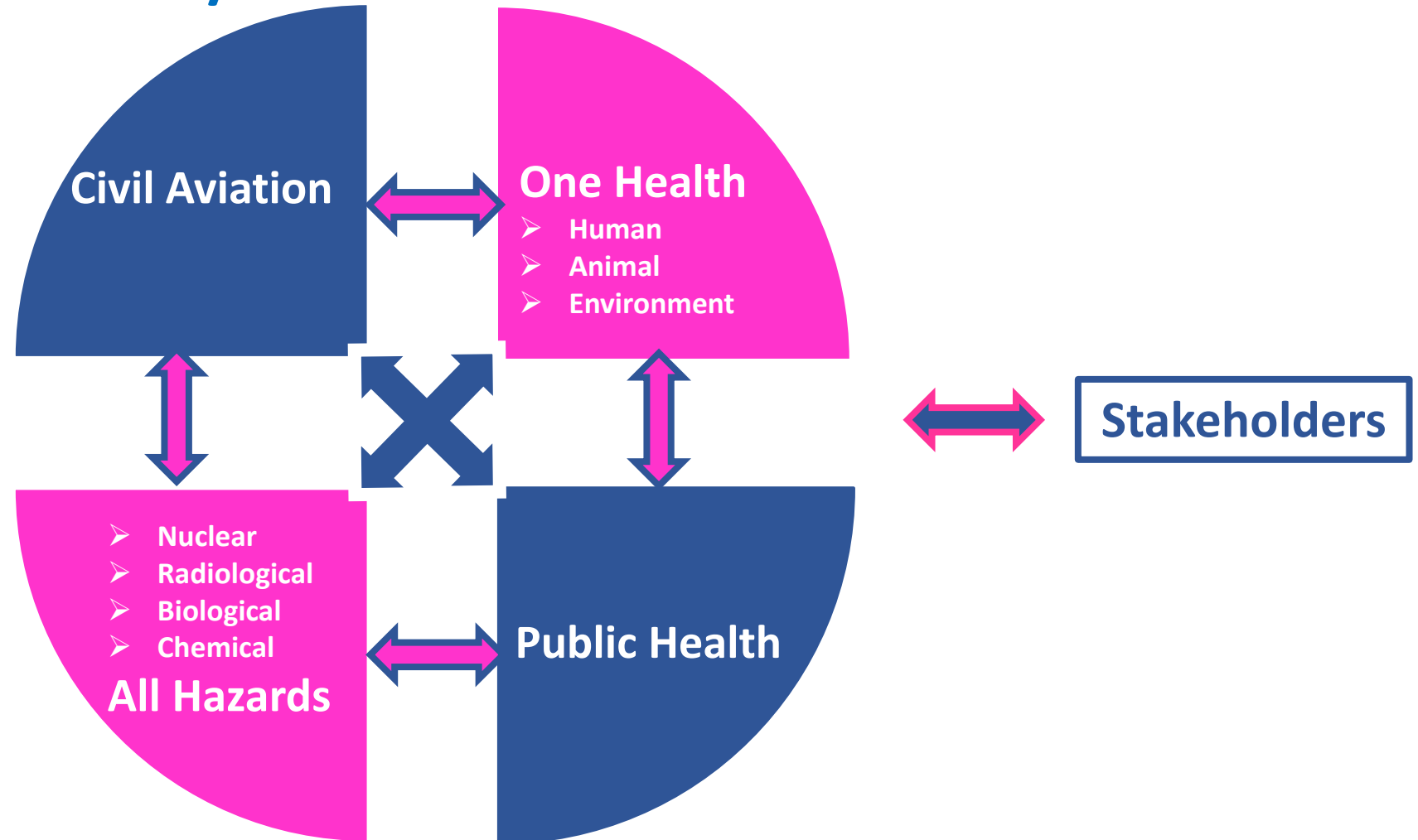
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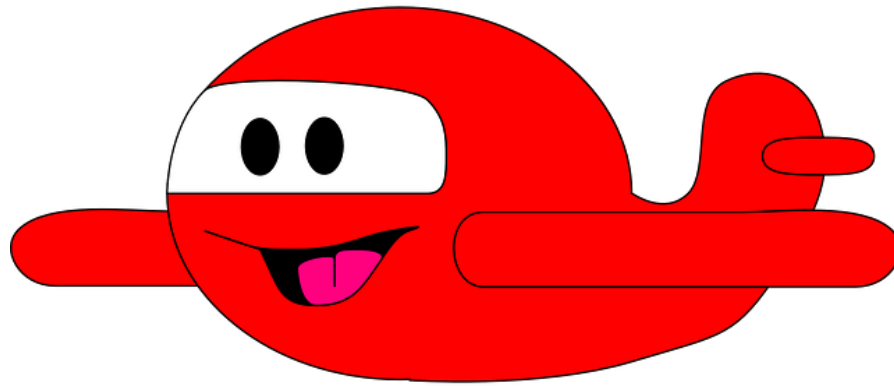
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Obrigada



Thank you / Shokran

mjoao.martins@dgs.min-saude.pt
martins.mjoao13@gmail.com