



CAPSCA



CAPSCA EUR–MID/12

Cairo 20-21 May 2025

Preparedness and Response for Airlines

How can Public Health and Airlines best interact for response?

An example from Portugal

Cairo, 20 October 2025

Maria João Martins

How can Public Health and Airlines best interact for response

At Lisbon Airport

- **Airport Medical Services**
 - nurses
 - ambulance crew



National Health Service

- **Public Health Authority (PHA)**

Preparedness and Response for Airlines

How can Public Health and Airlines best interact for response



How can Public Health and Airlines best interact for response

When did Airlines and Public Health Authority meet?

- 2000
- Airport Emergency Committee

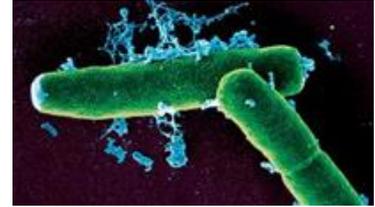


When did we start co-work?

- September 2001

How can Public Health and Airlines best interact for response

September 2001 - white powder – Antrax



- First suspected case was on an aircraft preparing to take off at Lisbon airport
- Airport Emergency Committee (AEC) activated for the 1st time for a Public Health event
- PHA – risk communication to the crew and to the pax
- 1st Public Health Contingency Plan as an annex to Airport Emergency Plan

Preparedness and Response for Airlines

How can Public Health and Airlines best interact for response

- **2001 PHA joined the Airport FALSEC Commission**
 - **Meeting partners and stakeholders**



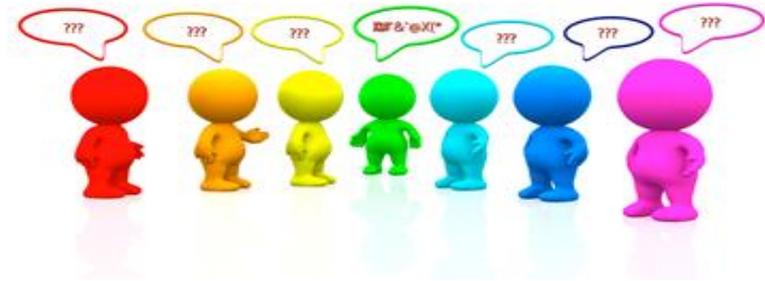
Preparedness and Response for Airlines

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- **2001 Antrax** - 1st Public Health Contingency Plan as an annex to Airport Emergency Plan - no cases in Portugal
- **2003 SARS** - 1st national guidance for air travelers + Airport Contingency Plan - no cases in Portugal
- **2009 AH1N1nv** - First 37 diagnosed cases were imported - air travel
- **2014 Ebola - PHEIC** - 9 suspected cases in Portugal – all detected at Lisbon airport – no cases in Portugal
- **2020 - 2023 COVID-19 - PHEIC** - Got to know each other quite well
- **2025 – CAPSCA EURO-MID/12 – Preparing for the future...**

How can Public Health and Airlines best interact for response

- **Communication**



- List of head of airlines representatives
- Occupational health contacts

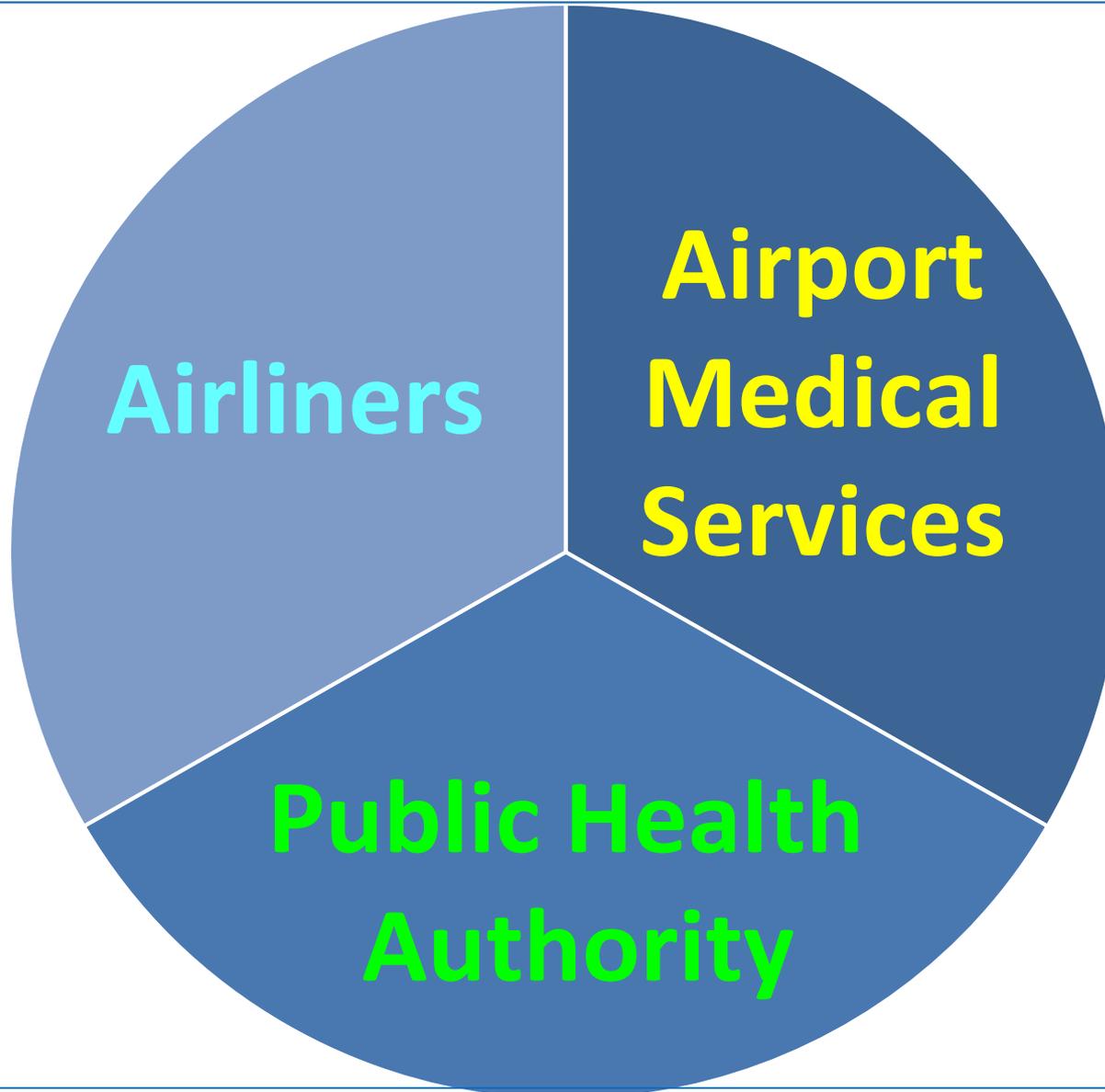
- **Airport Public Health Preparedness and Response Plan**

- Disclosed to all stakeholders (FALSEC)



Preparedness and Response for Airlines

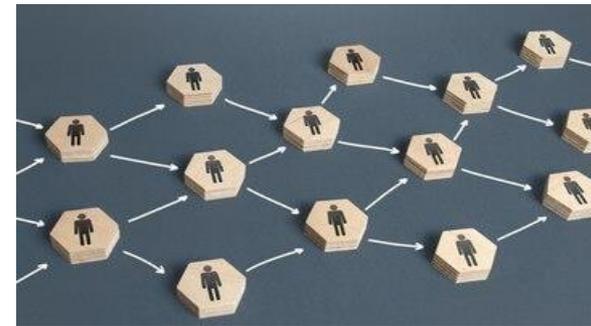
How can Public Health and Airlines best interact for response



How can Public Health and Airlines best interact for response

Contact tracing

- **Contact Tracing can help Public Health to slow the spread of diseases**



Contact Tracing when?

- ✓ **International Alerts**
- ✓ **When the destination airport PHA determines contact tracing is necessary**
 - **Suspected case of communicable disease on board**
 - **Other situations**

Preparedness and Response for Airlines

How can Public Health and Airlines best interact for response

- **Contact tracing**
 - On board (PLF?)
 - After flight (pax list)



World Health
Organization

- **COVID-19**
- **Tuberculosis**
- **Measles**
- **Meningococcal meningites**
- **Other**



How can Public Health and Airlines best interact for response

- **International Alerts**

PHA  **SOPs**

- **Airport First Aid Services (Mpox; Cholera; Hemorrhagic fever)**
- **Airliners (Rabies; Desinsection)**



Preparedness and Response for Airlines

How can Public Health and Airlines best interact for response

**Coordination between partners and stakeholders
must have the commitment of everyone**



Obrigada / Thank you / Shokran



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