



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

## 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)**

# 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

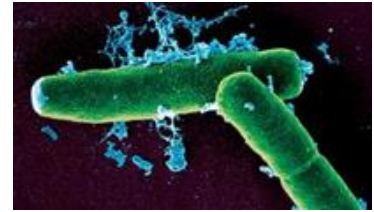


### When did we start co-work?

- September 2001

# How can Public Health and Airlines best interact for response

## September 2001 - white powder – Anthrax



- 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

## 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

# How can Public Health and Airlines best interact for response

- **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

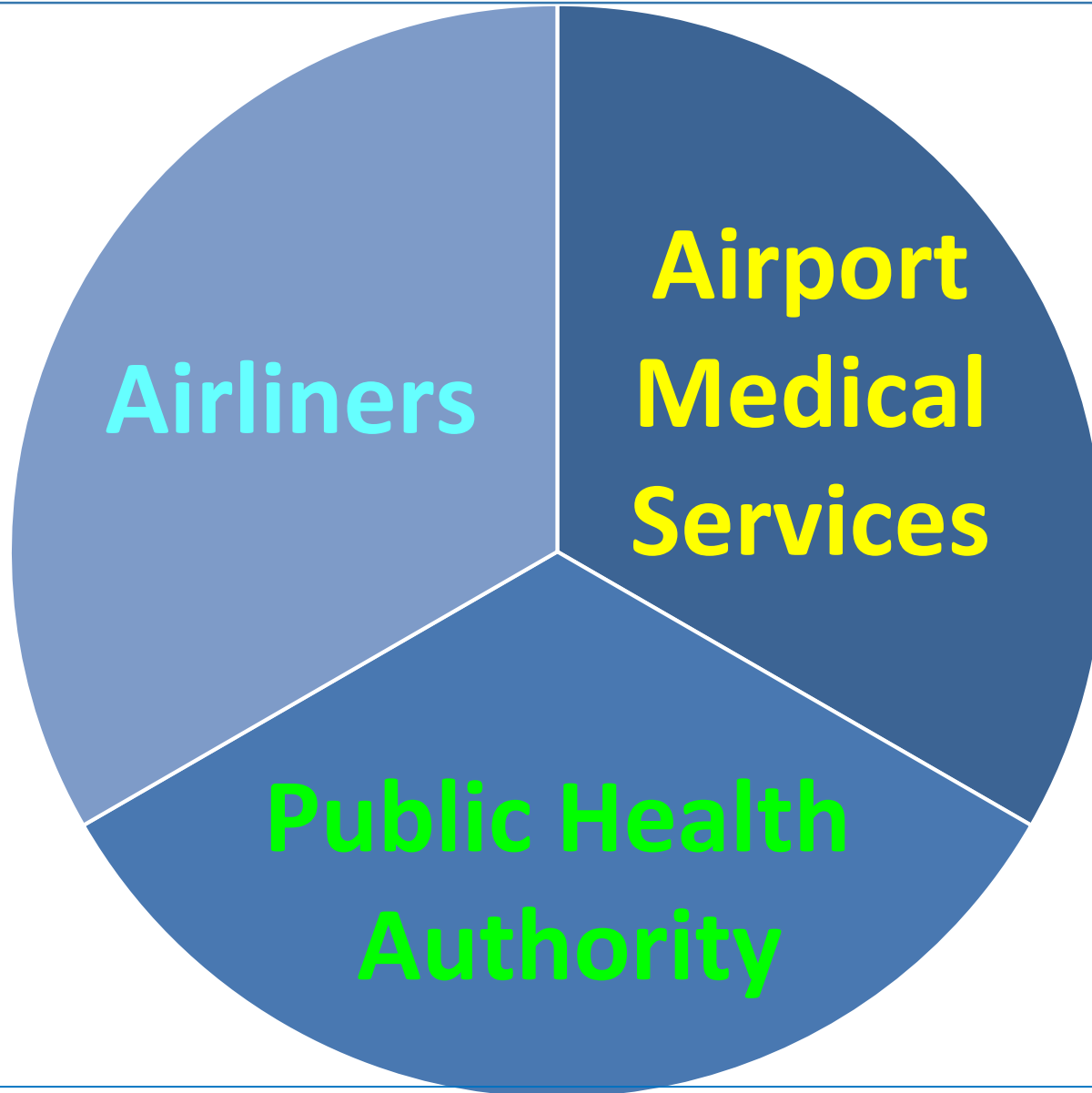
- **Airport Public Health Preparedness and Response Plan**

- Disclosed to all stakeholders (FALSEC)





# 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**

## How can Public Health and Airlines best interact for response



World Health  
Organization

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



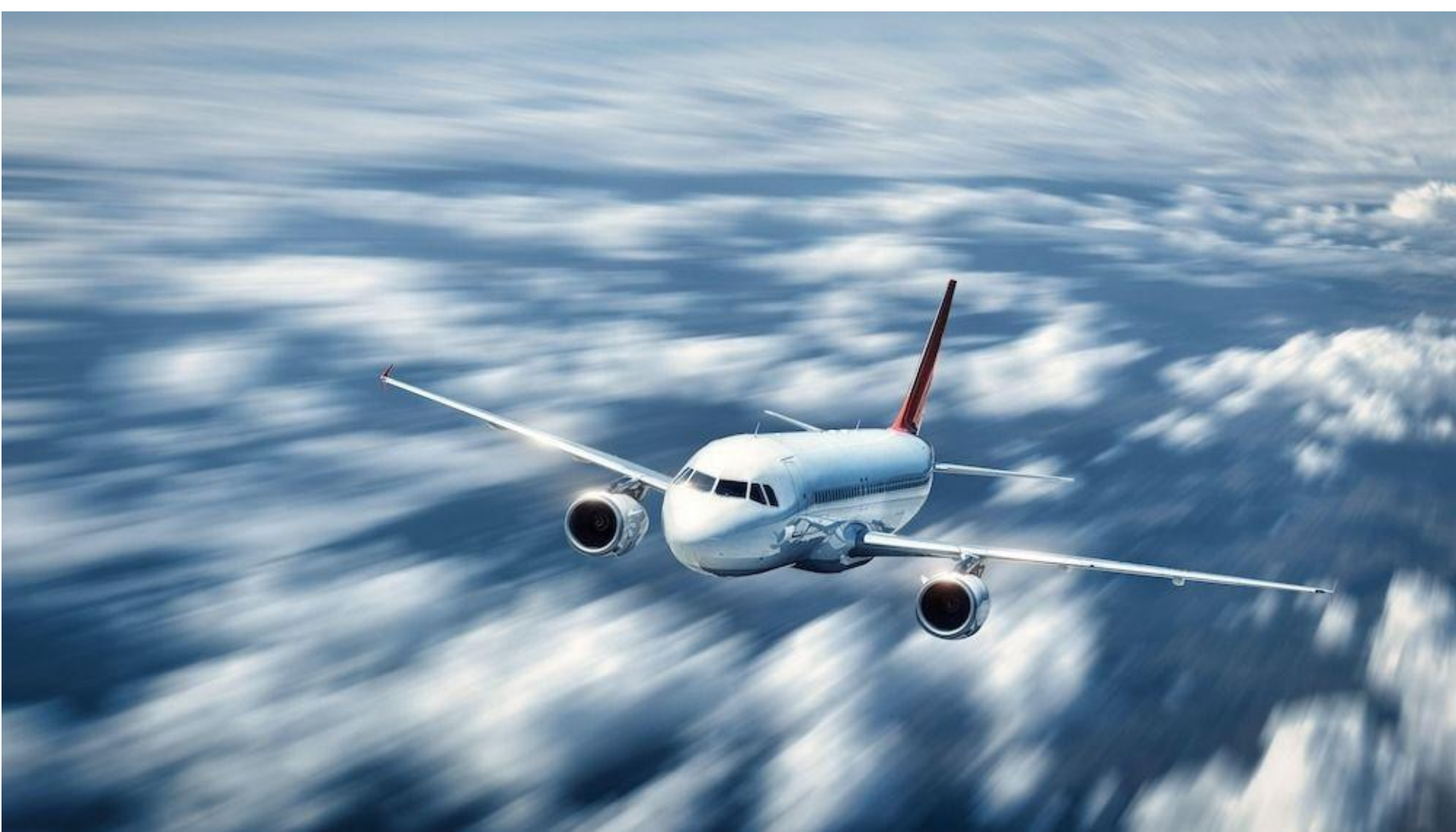
# Preparedness and Response for Airlines

## 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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