

POINTS OF ENTRY

Points of entry are airports and land crossing of international entry and exit of travelers, cargo and conveyances. To slow down international spread of COVID-19, staff and infrastructure at points of entry must be prepared to detect and manage ill people and to refer them to public health services safely. Under the IHR (2005), countries have designated key points of entry at which to strengthen and maintain capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to public health risks. Activities at ports of entry should support surveillance and risk communication activities.

Travel restrictions should be evaluated against evidence-based assessments of potential effectiveness and impact on communities and livelihoods. The most recent WHO recommendations for international travel in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak were issued on 29 Feb 2020.

Priority activities at **national level** include

- i. Develop a points of entry public health emergency plan
- ii. Develop points of entry Standard Operating Procedures for staff at all points of entry
- iii. Develop capacity building plan for all staff at points of entry
- iv. Regularly review WHO recommendations for international traffic in line with evolving evidence and national risk assessment.
- v. Monitor the implementation of the points of entry public health emergency plan and SOPs
- vi. Conduct periodic assessment of all points of entry to assess isolation facilities and other capacities to manage ill passengers and to safely transport them to designated health facilities
- vii. Prepare appropriate risk communication messages for travelers, staff and crew. Ensure that messages are translated and communicated in appropriate languages.

Priority activities at **Points of Entry** include

- i. Ensure that all relevant staff are sensitized on the nationally approved points of entry public health emergency plan
- ii. Establish facilities to safely assess and isolate travelers or staff with influenza symptoms or signs. These facilities could be onsite at the POE or could be offsite in liaison with local public health authorities
- iii. Train all relevant POE staff on the Standard Operating Procedures for use at all points of entry
- iv. Submit data and other information using nationally approved tools and templates to provincial and national level in compliance with national POE SOPs
- v. Conduct period assessment of all points of entry to assess isolation facilities and other capacities to manage ill passengers and to safely transport them to designated health facilities
- vi. Prepare appropriate risk communication messages for travelers, staff and crew. Ensure that messages are translated and communicated in appropriate languages.