

Healthy Air Travel – COVID and Beyond



Outline

- Lessons learned from COVID
- Why is air travel a risk to health?
- The big risk areas
- Determined Traveler
- Crew
- Risk Mitigation

COVID Lessons (or not)

- How much of a health risk was / is COVID to aviation
- Perception of risk ...
- Long incubation period / asymptomatic individuals
- Import / export of virus / variants
- COVID has however raised profile of health risk across the industry

What are the Health Risks in Aviation

- Cabin Environment – Hostile and Remote
 - Passenger and Crew with existing or emerging medical conditions
 - In-flight Medical Events (IFME)
- Crew and Travelers away from home
 - Sickness and Accident down route
 - Lack of normal access to support and medical care
- Be aware of the determined traveler and crew

Hostile Environment?



The Determined Traveler

- Who are they?
 - Elderly
 - Those with significant chronic illness
 - Those travelling for medical treatment
 - They have a compelling reason to travel
- The Pandemic has lead to pent up travel demand including determined travelers
- Is this phenomenon only seen in the airlines??

Crew

- Frequently away from home
- Operational / training
- Tendency towards risk taking
- Injury / Illness is relatively common
- May need assistance with access to medical support
- Fitness to operate – requires specialist knowledge
- COVID – significant crewing disruptions

Risk Mitigation

- Lack of regulation in private aviation
- Identification of the determined traveler
- Forewarned is forearmed
- Medical advice around determined traveler / IFME
- Ground Based Medical Support – access improving with connectivity and technology
- Medical Equipment on board
 - OXYGEN
 - Easy to use for non medical user
- Crew training to include effective use of GBMS

Risk Mitigation 2

- Robust Systems / Processes for crew sickness
- Early involvement of medical support provider
- Appropriate medical care
- Appropriate follow up / fitness to operate
- Duty of care
- Role for technology

COVID / Future Pandemics

- Inevitable
- mRNA vaccines a game changer
- Role of border closures and travel restriction
 - Recent China example
 - Testing of individuals vs flight



Wellness



Honeywell UV Cabin System on board a Qatar Airways aircraft



Image of Humidiflyer mask

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Questions / Comments

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