



IHR implementation in the Netherlands

Daisy Ooms

*Medical Doctor in Communicable Disease Control; MPH
Public Health Authority Kennemerland, the Netherlands*



International Health Regulations (IHR)

Reasons new IHR (2005)

- Increased international travel and trade
- SARS epidemic in 2003

Purpose and scope

The IHR (2005) aim at protecting against international disease spread while avoiding unnecessary interference with global traffic and trade.



Dutch Public Health Law (WPG)

Three laws in the past

- Public prevention law (1989)
- Infectious disease law (1998)
- Quarantine law (1964)



2008: one Public Health Law (WPG)

- With integration of IHR requirements



Designation of Airports

*2017	No. Passengers (x1000)	No. Intercontinental passengers (x1000)	No. Flight movements (x1000)
Amsterdam Schiphol	68.400 (90%)	19.750 (99%)	509
Eindhoven	5.700	153	36
Rotterdam-The Hague	1.700	41	27
Groningen	202	-	9
Maastricht	168	-	9
Totaal	76.200	19.950	590



Ports of Entry under Dutch PH law

A Port

WHO designated Point of Entry

- Amsterdam Airport Schiphol

B Ports

- Eindhoven Airport
- Rotterdam The Hague Airport
- Maastricht Airport
- Groningen Airport



Facilities on airports

- **Only A ports are official ‘designated Points of Entry’**
 - Aircrafts heading to a B Port are being redirected to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol in case of a serious threat for Public Health
- **Facilities on both A and B Ports**
 - Guidelines for notification of communicable disease on airplanes
 - Emergency plan for Public Health threats on the airport
 - Basic facilities to prevent the spread of infectious diseases
- **Extra facilities on A Ports**
 - Open access to medical care
 - Emergency service
 - Quarantine location



Temporary passenger holding areas on Schiphol



Holding area Busstation G-terminal, max. 286 pax



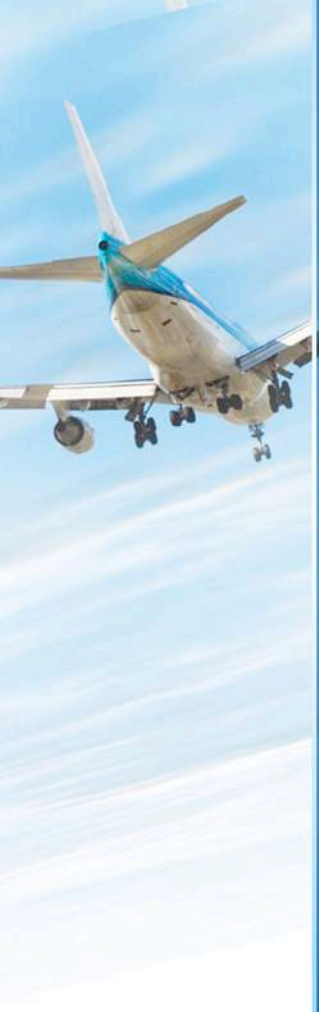
Quarantine location max. 8 hours



Plane on holding



Quarantine location Long-term residence



Airport Medical Centre

Facilities

- Medical Centre for first aid, 24/7 staffed
- Ambulance service, travel clinic, pharmacy
- Inflight medical support ground-to-flight
- Routine prevention & pandemic kits



Liaison for Public Health Authorities at the Airport

- Facilitates contact with Airlines
- Report (suspected) cases directly to Public Health
- Cooperates in handling incidents



IHR and Schiphol Airport



Airlines & Airport
Medical Services



Local
Public Health
Authorities

WHO / IHR

Objectives

1. Health protection passengers and crew
3. Protection public health on destination(s)
5. Slowing down the worldwide spread of diseases, vectors and resistance

Dutch Public
Health Law

Ministry of
Health / RIVM

Operational

Policy



Preparedness

General measures for communicable diseases

- Monitoring outbreaks and alertness for introduction
- Regular contact MHS and Airport Medical Centre
- Logistics (materials, protective measures for staff)

Outbreak preparedness

- Guidelines and procedures how to handle an incident (plane, index, pax, materials, diagnosis, quarantine, protective measures, disinfection, transport, etc.)
- Ground-to-air conference on inflight suspect case(s)
- Training and exercise



Training and Exercise

- 2011** Operational exercise SARS scenario
- 2012** Operational exercise Marburg scenario
- 2013** Flight simulator exercise, risk analysis and management on board
- 2013** Large operational exercise real plane (MD11)
- 2014** 2x flight simulator exercise, PHA & Ambulance
- 2014** Table top exercise with all stakeholders (PHA, AMS, KLM, airport authority)
- 2015** Operational exercise MERS scenario contact tracing
- 2015** Network meeting with all stakeholders
- 2016** Operational exercise with real plane, norovirus scenario



Training and Exercise



The Ebola threat

- No direct flights from affected areas
- Most passengers had a stopover at Casablanca or Brussels
- Announcements were made by the captain
- Information leaflets available upon arrival
- Medical evacuations
- Cleaning and disinfection protocols airplanes



INFORMATIONS ET CONSEILS À PROPOS DU VIRUS EBOLA
Pour les voyageurs en provenance de Guinée, de Sierra Leone et de Libéria

INFORMATION ABOUT EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE
FOR TRAVELLERS FROM SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA AND GUINEE

Medical evacuations

- Two Dutch MD's from Sierra Leone (contacts)
- One Liberian UN soldier from Sierra Leone (confirmed case)
- Private medivac organizations or Air force assistance
- National Public Health Institute: risk assessment and coordination. (WHO, ministries, hospitals, MHS)
- Municipal Public Health Service: organization of Public Health measures on the Airport, together with airport stakeholders





Take Home Message

- In the Netherlands one official (air) Point of Entry, well equipped to handle Public Health threats/incidents
- Four smaller airports, only basically equipped
- For implementation of the IHR cooperation between Public Health authorities and airport stakeholders is essential
- Training and exercise is essential in order to adequately execute the established procedures in a real situation