

July 15, 2020



### INSTRUCTIONS

- All participants are in "listen only" mode
- Please submit your questions via the 'chat box' on the right hand side of the control panel



### **AGENDA**

- Situational update
- Organisational preparedness & needs during periods of extreme restrictions & international border closures
- Criteria for movement
- Case study examples and their unique challenges
- Q&A





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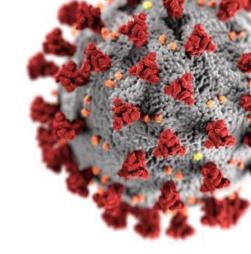


Usman Qureshi
Regional Operations Director
International SOS

### **GENERAL UPDATE**

The disruption caused by COVID-19 has impacted us globally and on an unprecedented scale

- Global case numbers
- Pandemic remains dynamic
- Quick 'lockdowns' left many stranded
- Healthcare systems responding: Health Care Workers, Testing, PPE, Hospital Beds, Ventilators
- Waves around the world at different times and peaks
- Return to Operations and Travel
- Need to stay vigilant with physical distancing policies and hand hygiene
- Access 24/7 assistance and information





# PHASES OF ORGANISATIONAL NEEDS DURING AN OUTBREAK



Based on historical tracking of requests for assistance (RFAs), for our Assistance Centres (ACs) globally, the phases of client requests during an outbreak are as follows:

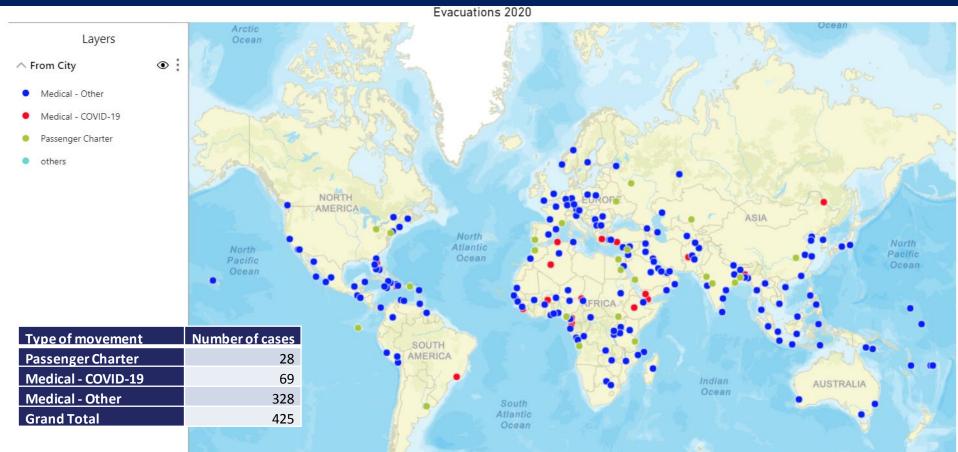
- 1. Outbreak declared: Questions around how to respond. Should we leave? Can you evacuate us if we get sick?
- 2. Outbreak exacerbated: Requests to evacuate healthy and sick people.
- 3. Return to base: Employees now back in their home country.
- 4. New daily cases appear to decrease
- 5. Follow-up outbreaks: Employees have returned to site.

# TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE INTERNATIONAL REQUESTS DURING AN OUTBREAK

- 1. Security: Entirely healthy individuals requesting proactive movement because of local medical or security concerns.
- 2. Medical non outbreak related: Conditions entirely unrelated to an outbreak, such as cardiac or trauma situations.
- 3. Medical mimicking outbreak illness symptoms: Conditions that present similar to the outbreak, like the flu, malaria or dengue.
- 4. Medical exposed or infected, but without symptoms.
- 5. Medical infected and symptomatic.

### **EVACUATIONS YTD 2020**





# COVID-19 **EVACUATION CAPABILITY** STATEMENTS & **AVIATION ALERTS**

International SOS Evacuation Capability Statement

International Medical Evacuation - Patients With COVID-19

- International SOS is highly experienced in evacuating patients with infectious disease. having safely transported numerous infectious patients around the world.
- International SOS has provided aeromedical transportation for confirmed COVID-19
- The current COVID-19 outbreak has presented new challenges and International SOS has been in close contact with local Health Authorities, the World Health Organization (WHO), Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC) with respect to best practices and monitoring
- International SOS has been working with multiple clients with personnel based in affected areas and has significant insight into the requirements, logistics and potential complications of conducting a cross border medical transportation of a COVID-19

International Medical Evacuation - COVID-19

Should international medical evacuation be considered for a patient with COVID-19, the following complexities need to be taken into account

- Availability of aircraft operators/flight crew capable to transport COVID-19 patients
- Acceptance of patient by Health and Governmental Authorities in origin and
- Growing restrictions on entry of non-national patients, including flight and medical





Subscribers Locations

(A) > 2019-nCoV > Intl.SOS Evacuation Capability Statement

#### **EVACUATION CAPABILITY STATEMENT**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**COVID-19 DAILY** SUMMARY

COVID-19 MODELLING

USE OF FACE MASKS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

**COVID-19 TESTING** 

COVID-19 TREATMENT

**COVID-19 VACCINE** 

**COVID-19 OVERVIEW** 

#### International Medical Evacuation - Patients With COVID-19

- > International SOS is highly experienced in evacuating patients with infectious disease, having safely transported numerous infectious patients around the world.
- > International SOS has provided aeromedical transportation for confirmed COVID-19 infected patients by air ambulance.
- > As such, International SOS has the medical and technical capability to undertake international evacuation of patients with COVID-19 infection
- Aeromedical movement for patients with either a history of travel to a COVID-19 affected location, and/or overlapping symptoms may require a significant additional timeframe to undertake. Some patients may experience significant delays in evacuation and be reliant on local healthcare resources for prolonged periods.
- > Additional testing may be required, and if COVID-19 cannot be excluded, the patient may require the same levels of infection control and permissions as a confirmed case.
- > Therefore there may be a significant lead-time to confirm the feasibility of such evacuations as these variables are beyond the control of International SOS. These variables include, but are not necessarily limited to:

# MEDEVACS IN AN ERA OF HIGHLY INFECTIOUS DISEASES



- Patient fit to fly, commercially or by air ambulance.
- If COVID-19+, transportable in portable isolation unit.
- Availability of aircraft operators/flight crew.
- Acceptance of patient by Government Authorities in origin and destination countries.
- Restrictions on international flights; exemptions for AA missions are not always provided.
- Over-flight and landing permissions, including refueling stops.
- Restrictions on entry of non-national patients, including flight and medical crew in transit. Direct repatriation to home country often required.
- Availability and acceptance of medical facilities and hospital beds.
- Quarantine requirements for crew post mission.







# CASE 1: Suspected COVID-19 in El Salvador April 2020



- Located outside of the capital
- Fever, cough, & sore throat
- Dyspnea, fatigue, fever & chills
- Testing not immediately available.
- Concerns with the health care system not equipped to deal with a mass outbreak with complicated respiratory diseases.
- Others showing early symptoms too
- Request: evacuation to the U.S.



## Challenges & considerations



#### Need for a rapid response

- Coordination with local authorities
- Confirmed receiving care in the US
- Coordination with local medical team in El Salvador

#### **Transfer**

- Ground ambulance to the airport
- Air ambulance from El Salvador to Texas using a Portable Medical Isolation Unit (PMIU)

A second, near identical movement with another suspected case was completed the next day



# CASE 2: COVID-19 from Africa to China May 2020



28 May

31 May 2 June 4 June

10 June

13 June

Notified of multiple COVID patients in Lagos. Triage most serious patients for repatriation.

Client approved the repatriation of 1 patient in the isolation unit. Secured permits from Nigeria and China for the mission to proceed.

Formal activation of the Air Ambulance and firming up the flight plan

Air Ambulance depart home base and arrive Lagos

Arrived into Shenzhen

First Chinese national with COVID-19 repatriated back to China from abroad

# Challenges & considerations



#### Long lead time

- First COVID-19 Chinese national repatriation from Africa
- Additional approval levels from authorities
- Chinese Government approval for allowing patient to return landing permits.

Long mission – 21.5 hours flying with the patient between Nigeria and China

Heavy reliance on **International SOS clinic** staff to monitor patient awaiting the repatriation

**International SOS Beijing** supporting the engagement with the authorities and coordinating ground logistics.

**Preparation and orientation** of the patient and treating facility for the PMIU (portable medical isolation unit).



# **CASE 3: Repatriation of Assignees & Dependents April 2020**





43 Malaysian
Assignees and
Dependents based
out of Argentina –
request to return
home to Malaysia



Incident: COVID-19 Impact in Argentina: Closed borders and restricted inter-city transfers indications of no travel before September 2020



#### **Arrangements**:

Secure Ground
Transfers followed by
Wing-to-Wing
transfer from
Neuquén-Buenos
Aires and onwards to
Kuala Lumpur.

## Challenges & considerations



#### **Aviation Resources**

- Domestic sector required a local aircraft (limited runway and immigrations)
- Wide-bodied airframe for international flights given distance & passenger count
- Assignees extra luggage and larger items



Poor coordination between authorities

Heavy reliance on Malaysian Embassy and diplomatic process

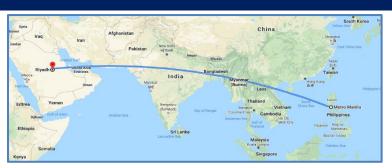
**Local Police, Local Secure Ground Transfer provider** and Ministry of Health involved for inter-city transfers

**International SOS Philadelphia and Kuala Lumpur** supporting the engagement with the authorities and coordinating ground logistics in respective locations

# **CASE 4: Repatriation of Mortal Remains July 2020**



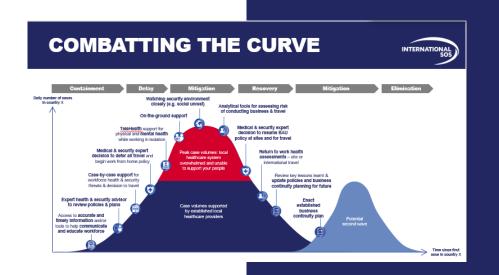
- Three different clients requested our help to assist with repatriation of mortal remains of their employees from three locations in Saudi Arabia to the Philippines.
- Engaged with our agent in Riyadh as well as the Philippines Embassy. Cargo space was secured on a Saudi Arabia repatriation flight through Philippines Airlines.
- Our Assistance Centre in Manila coordinated with the consignee to receive the remains in Manila and managed all domestic arrangements.



#### **Challenges & Considerations**

- Three deceased in three locations in Saudi
- Lack of funeral home infrastructure within the country
- Curfews and limited working hours
- Embassy overwhelmed with over 70 requests
- Documents obtained by post only
- Lack of regular commercial flights





### **Q&A** session

Thank you for joining us.

https://pandemic.internationalsos.com/2019-ncov