

Annex I

Sample letter from a health authority to an airline company requesting information for contact tracing after possible exposure to *M. tuberculosis*

N.B. This official letter should normally be sent only after the health authority has confirmed with the airline company that a TB patient likely to have been infectious was on board within the past three months and that the flight lasted more than eight hours.

Date

Address of airline medical consultant

Dear colleague,

We have recently been notified of a case of tuberculosis (TB) with a recent history of air travel. This patient has been judged to have been infectious at the time of the flight.

The patient, **[Mr/Ms,]** reported flying from **[town/airport of departure]** to **[town/airport of landing]** on **[date]** on your flight **[flight details – flight number and/or seat number if available – as precise as possible]**.

It was also confirmed that the flight in question was of more than **eight hours'** total duration. There is some evidence that transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* may occur during long (more than eight hours) flights, from an infectious source (passenger or crew member) to other passengers and crew members.

Thus, **all cabin crew** who were on this flight and in the same cabin section as the patient and at least **all passengers seated in the same row and those seated in the two rows in front of and two rows behind the index patient** are to be considered *flight* contacts and potentially exposed to TB.

Would you kindly provide us with the contact information for all of these individuals (names, addresses of origin and destination, telephone

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numbers). The information will be used on a strictly confidential basis to provide medical guidance to those concerned.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

[Name, address, telephone/fax number of health authority]