

SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka.

Issue No. 01(AMS/04)

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SUBJECT - NIPAH VIRUS OUTBREAKS

As part of a joint recommendation issued in coordination between the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka (CAASL), air operators are hereby informed of recent reports regarding a localized Nipah virus event India.

INFORMATION

1. NIPAH Virus updates:

- a) According to the latest information available from the World Health Organization (WHO) (27 January 2026), two confirmed Nipah virus cases have been reported in West Bengal State, with contact tracing underway and no evidence at this stage of sustained wider spread.
- b) Nipah virus outbreaks have occurred intermittently over the past two decades and have typically remained sporadic and geographically contained. Based on the information currently available from WHO, there is no indication at this stage of an emerging global public health threat, nor is there any basis for imposing travel restrictions or operational limitations.

2. CAASL Position

At this stage, the CAASL assesses that routine vigilance and established surveillance measures remain sufficient. **No additional regulatory action or operational changes are required.**

3. Expectations from Air Operator

- a) Air Operators are requested to continue to:
 - i. Maintain existing procedures for the identification and management of suspected communicable disease cases onboard.
 - ii. Ensure flight and cabin crew remain aware of symptom recognition, isolation measures, and escalation procedures, including coordination with AMS, CAASL.
 - iii. Maintain effective coordination with airport operators and the Public Health Authority at airports, in line with CAPSCA guidance.
 - iv. Ensure timely reporting and documentation of any health-related events in accordance with established requirements and State public health coordination mechanisms.

4. Operators are advised that:

- a) **No travel restrictions are currently in place.**
- b) No changes to flight schedules, routes, or crew deployment are required.
- c) No additional onboard equipment, procedures, or reporting mechanisms are being introduced at this stage.

d) Ongoing Monitoring

- i. CAASL will continue to closely monitor developments in coordination with ICAO, WHO & MoH, including through the CAPSCA network. Operators will be promptly informed should the risk assessment or recommended measures change.
- ii. Operators are encouraged to rely solely on official ICAO, WHO, MoH, and CAASL communications, and to avoid speculative or non-verified information.
- iii. For any clarification or in the event of an operational or health-related concern, operators are requested to contact the CAASL Aeromedical Services,

CONTACT

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