

Traveller and mail pathway interventions for Indonesia in 2022

TRAVELLER INTERVENTIONS

- In response to the foot-and-mouth (FMD) outbreak in Indonesia, frontline biosecurity officers are operating with increased vigilance across all flights arriving from Indonesia. This includes enhanced questioning of passengers (in the baggage hall) regarding FMD risk items they may be carrying.
- All flights from Indonesia operate with biosecurity profiles automatically flagging higher risk passengers for biosecurity screening. Any passengers identified as higher risk (through questioning or the presence of post-arrival indicators) are referred for biosecurity intervention (including baggage inspections).
- Biosecurity profiles can be dialled up or down per flight, according to risk. When dialling up the profiles for higher risk flights, more passengers are flagged for intervention.
- Following the spread of ASF across Asia in 2019, biosecurity profiles were dialled up on all flights out of ASF risk countries, including Indonesia. This meant that biosecurity profiles already flagged a higher number of passengers for intervention on flights from Indonesia ahead of the FMD incursion in Indonesia in 2022.

TESTING FOR FMD VIRUS

- Currently (and throughout June 2022) any FMD risk goods (meat and other animal products) from Indonesia detected at international airports and Mail Gateway Facilities are being collected and sent for testing of FMD virus.

TRAVELLER THROUGHPUT

- Historical (pre-COVID) data from 2019 shows more than 105,000 annual incoming flights to Australia, from all countries, and 21.9 million passengers, with an annual growth rate of around 5%.
- Of these 2019 passengers 1.7 million (7.7%) came on flights from Indonesia.
- However, in May 2022, flight arrivals were 62% lower than the 657 flights arriving in Australia out of Indonesia in May 2019.
- Despite this previous downward trend in flights from Indonesia, current flight arrivals from Indonesia are now up to 103 flights per week and growing fast.
- The upshot of this is that while flight numbers so far in 2022 are low (relative to pre-COVID times), the easing of border restrictions means the number of flights and passenger numbers are increasing rapidly—and some reports indicate pre-COVID levels will be reached within the next 6 to 12 months.

Traveller and mail pathway interventions for Indonesia in 2022

MAIL INTERVENTION

- Non-letter mail from Indonesia is being screened (by x-ray or detector dogs) at a one hundred percent inspection rate.
- In June 2022, biosecurity officers undertook a targeted operation across five flights from Indonesia and Timor Leste arriving in Australia. A high level of passenger compliance with biosecurity requirements (with respect to FMD risk items) was found.
 - No FMD risk material (meat or animal product) was detected on flights arriving from Timor Leste.
 - Four passengers had dirty shoes that required cleaning across all the Indonesian flights (which all had declared on the Incoming Passenger Card) and compliance action was undertaken for only two non-declarant passengers (but neither instance related to FMD risk).
- While the scope of the targeted operation extended to the Mail Pathway, no Indonesian mail arrived during that time so the operation was extended to end-June. Future targeting will include inspection (not just screening) of all Indonesian mail.
- Further targeted operations may be considered in the future (in the context of the broader assurance work underway).

COMMUNICATIONS

- Response activities currently underway also include enhanced targeted communication material (distributed both on and offshore) targeting passengers and mail users.