PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES ARE TAKEN BY COUNTRIES TO REDUCE THE TRANSMISSION OF THE COVID-19

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AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Author AAD designed the study, performed and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Author MAA managed the literature searches. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

| Short Communication |

ABSTRACT

To limit the spread of COVID-19, the governments advise avoiding all non-essential travel outside until further notice. *Aim*: This review study aimed to find out the precautionary measures taken by governments to reduce transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak. Such countries have either suspended visas or do not allow visitors from infected countries to enter. Many airlines are suspending flights. Many airports are closing, preventing flights from leaving. Exit bans are becoming more frequent. The instructions that the European Union followed when the restriction should be lifted from countries that adhere to the standards set by member states together, including health status, ability to apply containment measures while traveling, and reciprocity considerations, keeping in mind the relevant data emanating from ECDC and WHO.

Keywords: RNA; SARS-CoV-2; COVID-19; EU; WHO.

1. INTRODUCTION

Through the outbreak, most countries had been imposing quarantines, canceling major events, and closing schools. These events also impact on tourism. Most flight companies have canceled their flights besides shrinking demand to flights and destinations devoid of tourists [1]. If a passenger will have booked a trip that will take a place soon, chances are may not able to travel because many countries have shut their borders. Even if someone is allowed to travel, countries may impose self-isolation for all arrivals. Below are a few things that have needed to know [2].

COVID-19 is a new virus that belongs to the *coronaviridae* family which is common across the world. SARS-CoV-2 can cause respiratory illnesses which could lead to more severe health problems. A single positive-strand RNA virus can easily spread between human-to-human causing much fear and confusion among the general public. Around the world, many countries have implemented drastic measures to protect their citizens [3]. COVID-19 can diffuse through closed contacts when an infected person's cough, drops form and sneezes as well as touching faces, eyes, nose and mouth. It appears particularly hard for individuals that already have health issues, such as old ages and infirm or

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Immunocompromised patients. It is reasonable to expect the COVID-19 outbreaks to last several months. On 19th March, after almost two months of lockdown, China reports zero new local imported cases but the country now has imported cases from people recently returned from outside [4].

2. PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES ARE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS

Since March 2020 most countries have either suspended visas or do not allow visitors from an infected country to enter. Even if you have not been to an infected area and assuming the country you are visiting hasn't shut its borders, you must still plan for all eventualities including what will happen if flights are canceled and you are stranded in a foreign land. Here we will give examples of the precautionary measures taken by countries to reduce transmission viruses across borders and airports [5].

Albania has suspended all flights. Austria has banned visitors from Italy, China (only Hubei province), Iran, and South Korea. Direct air and railway travel from France, Spain, Switzerland, and the UK are also suspended. Australia has travel restrictions to visitors from China, Iran, South Korea, and Italy. Belgium has suspended all flights. A partial lockdown is implemented. Canada has enforced a 14-day self-isolation for all arrivals. The Czech Republic has banned visitors from Austria, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Iran, Norway, South Korea, Spine, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK [6].

3. EU IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS

The European Union started to ban all trips between non-European countries and European countries. So far nine EU countries have either closed or planned to close their borders to all foreigners. EU countries that have imposed strict border checks are Austria, Croatia, Slovenia, and Germany. France has shut all none essential establishments, restaurants, bars, and cinemas [7]. Germany has introduced temporary controls on borders with Austria, Switzerland, France, Luxemburg, and Denmark. Greece has enforced a 14-day self-isolation for all arrivals. Georgia has imposed a travel ban on Iran. It also has suspended many international flights. Hong Kong has banned visitors from China's Hubei province and South Korea. India has suspended all tourist visas from China, South Korea, Iran, and the affected regions of Italy. Ireland has asked all pubs to shut. Italy has imposed a national lockdown. Japan has banned visitors from China's Hubei province and South Korea as well as the affected region in Italy Jordan has suspended

flights from Italy. Kuwait has stopped issuing visas to foreign visitors. Libya has shut all air and seaports. Malaysia has banned visitors from China's Hubei province and South Korea as well as the affected region in Italy, Japan, Iran, and Denmark. It has also banned all cruise ships from docking and imposed lockdown. Moldova has banned visitors who have recently been to China, Hong Kong, Iran, Italy, Japan, Macao, South Korea, and Taiwan. New Zealand has asked all arrivals to self-isolation. Portugal has imposed border controls with Spain and suspended flights with many European countries. Saudi Arabia has suspended all international flights. Slovakia closes its border. International flights are canceled. Slovenia has suspended all flights. Singapore has banned all visitors with a recent travel history to China, Iran, South Korea, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain. All arrivals with a recent travel history to Japan, Switzerland, the UK, and all Asian countries must self-isolate for 14 days [8]. Spain has declared a state of emergency, closing restaurants, bars, cinemas, and sporting events. Sri Lanka has suspended its visa on arrivals. Sweden has suspended all flights [9]. Switzerland has imposed a partial lockdown. The UK has imposed partial lockdown [10]. The USA imposes entry to visitors who have been in China, Iran, and now 26 countries in the Schengen Area (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland). The ban has now included the UK and Ireland. Various cities across the USA have also imposed lockdown. Vietnam has suspended visa-free travel for people from the UK, Germany, France, Spain, Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Sweden. Reports have been received from many African countries that have imposed strict travel restrictions but these reports can't confirm if the reports are genuine or not [11].

The European Commission quickly put in place targeted the legislation to temporarily relieve airlines of their obligations to use the airport aperture under European Union law. This amendment to the EU slot regulation has already been approved by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union and had entered into force on 1st April. Then, on 29th April, the European Union Commission adopted a series of measures by supporting companies in the land, sea, and air transportation sectors besides railway transport sectors. This package follows the measures taken to ensure the safety of transport workers, to inform travelers of their rights as well as to ensure that commodities are traded throughout Europe. These measures aimed to reduce the regulatory burden and reduce costs for transport

companies. On 13th May, the European Union countries, with the support of the Commission, agreed to a protocol to ensure cross-border interoperability of voluntary communication tracking applications, so that citizens can be warned of a possible coronavirus infection when they travel in the European Union [12].

On 15th June, the European Union was reopened, allowing a safe re-launch of free movement and tourism across Europe and planning their trips and holidays with confidence during the summer and beyond [13]. The platform has provided information about limits, travel restrictions, available transportation, and public health. Moreover, it offered safety measures such as physical detachment, wearing masks, as well as other practical information for travelers. After 30th June, the restriction should be lifted from countries that adhere to the standards set by member states together, including health status, ability to apply containment measures while traveling, and reciprocity considerations, keeping in mind the relevant data emanating from ECDC and WHO [14].

In the last three months, it is noteworthy that there has been a decrease in the number of viral infections as a result of the quarantine and the restriction travels adopted by countries. But with the reopening of the borders completely, this has led to an elevate number of infections, which may alarm for advancing the second wave of COVID-19 for the next months.

4. CONCLUSIONS

SARS-CoV-2 is one of the highly contagious respiratory diseases. As a result of countries taking precautionary measures, this led to limiting the spread of the virus during the first months of the outbreak. Unfortunately, the number of cases had become altitude so it is necessary to return to coercive measures between countries to reduce infection cases.

CONSENT

It is not applicable.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

It is not applicable.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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