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Международная
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منظمة الطيران
المدني الدولي

国际民用
航空组织

Ref.: E 2/22 – AP071/09 (ATM)

30 April 2009

Subject: Swine Influenza Update – WHO Phase 5 Declared

Action required: To urgently take appropriate State actions

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to draw to your attention the text (see below) of an Electronic Bulletin (Ref: EB2009/11, 29 April 2009) recently issued by ICAO. Please note that subsequent to the issuance of this Electronic Bulletin the World Health Organization (WHO) has now declared **PHASE 5** on the WHO scale, where Phase 6 represents the maximum alert level.

The recent decision of the World Health Organization to raise the level of influenza alert from phase 3 to phase 4 [Now Phase 5] should further prompt ICAO Member States to review their preparedness and be ready to take effective measures to prevent the spread of communicable disease, in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

During the past two years, ICAO has developed, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, International Air Transport Association, Airports Council International and other concerned parties, guidance material to assist States prepare for a serious public health event. In addition, changes to Annex 6 – Operation of Aircraft, Annex 9 – Facilitation, Annex 11 – Air Traffic Services (and PANS-ATM) and Annex 14 – Aerodromes, strengthen the Standards and Recommended Practices and Procedures dealing with public health events.

The ICAO website <http://www.icao.int/> is regularly updated and provides a link to the current guidelines – <http://www.icao.int/icao/en/med/guidelines.htm>. Directors General are urged to consult the guidelines and familiarize themselves with the relevant changes already applicable in Annex 9, as well as those in the other Annexes which become applicable in November 2009.

States are urged to immediately review the ICAO Guidance Materials referred to above.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mokhtar A. Awan
Regional Director