Transport of Specimens of Coronavirus (Covid — 19)

（an email from David Brennan, Assist. Director, Cargo Safety and Standards, IATA）

From: David Brennan <brennand@iata.org>
Date: March 3, 2020 18:22:29 JST
Subject: Transport of Specimens of Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Dear all,

As you are aware the outbreak of novel coronavirus (Covid-19) has health officials worldwide on alert to ensure that any suspected cases are isolated and managed according to appropriate national health protocols.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has advised that so far, the transport of specimens to laboratories for analysis is working well, although there have been some delays where the classification of specimens of Covid-19 as UN 3373, Biological substance, Category B has been questioned by airlines, customs or other authorities, where there has been an opinion that the specimens should be UN 2814, i.e. Category A.

Based on the classification of specimens of SARS, swine flu, MERS and other similar types of viruses as UN 3373, Biological substance, Category B, the WHO and other national health authorities are advising health authorities to ship specimens of Covid-19 as UN 3373, Biological substance, Category B. To ensure that the global response to suspected cases of Covid-19 is as rapid as possible, it is important that specimens are able to be transported to laboratories for analysis without delay. Please assist in this response by facilitating the movement of specimens offered as UN 3373 and packed in accordance with PI 650.

Regards,

Dave

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