

VIRGIN GROUP LOOKING INTO MACHINES AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO PUT ON AIRCRAFTS TO KILL GERMS, SIR RICHARD BRANSON SAYS

**Says Company Has Purchased 10,000 Doses of Drug Tamiflu for His Staff;
'Our Staff is On the Front Line...We're Acting Like a Responsible Company'**

New York -- Richard Branson, Chairman of Virgin Group Ltd. said today at the TIME Global Health Summit that his company is looking into machines and new technologies to put on aircrafts to kill germs in anticipation of a bird flu pandemic. He said his company has purchased 10,000 doses of the drug Tamiflu for his staff.

In response to questions about companies hoarding Tamiflu, Branson said, "We've bought the courses [of Tamiflu] because our staff is on the front line...we're acting like a responsible company."

Branson also said that despite Virgin's best efforts to protect staff and passengers, if the flu starts spreading person to person, "it will most certainly affect the airline industry."

The TIME Global Health Summit will inform and engage Americans from all sectors on the international challenges to public health – and what they can do to help. The TIME Summit will highlight solutions to such challenges as AIDS, avian flu, malaria and the shortage of health care professionals. The summit brings together non-profit, government, faith and corporate leaders like Bill Clinton, Bill Gates, Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, Ted Turner, Ann Veneman, Rick Warren, Paul Wolfowitz and others.

For more information about the TIME Global Health Summit, or for webcasts, transcripts, downloadable photos and breaking news, log on to www.time.com/globalhealth. TIME.com features an ongoing blog by TIME's team of science and health writers throughout the Summit.

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