



The International Health Regulations

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

IHR 101

What are the International Health Regulations 2005?

The IHR 2005 are an international agreement between 194 States Parties and the World Health Organization (WHO) to monitor, report on, and respond to any events that could pose a threat to international public health.

What is the purpose of the IHR 2005?

To prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade. (International Health Regulations, Article 2)

What is the benefit of the IHR 2005?

The IHR 2005 provide a universal framework for international public health emergency preparedness and response, including efficient coordination of international response efforts. They also guide the development and enhancement of public health surveillance and response capacities globally, and ensure timely information-sharing during public health emergencies.

What are the key functions of the IHR 2005?

- Require reporting of specific diseases and any event that may pose a risk to international public health
- Establish core public health capacities to ensure surveillance and response capabilities for all countries at all levels
- Create a process for international collaboration and decision-making in emergency situations
- Unify the international approach to defining and addressing public health emergencies

When did the IHR 2005 begin?

The IHR were agreed to in 2005 and took effect in 2007. There was a two year implementation period, which ended in 2009, and countries have until 2012 to fully implement the IHR 2005.

Who oversees the IHR 2005?

The WHO oversees the IHR 2005 and coordinates with all participating countries primarily through the WHO Regional Offices.

