WHO and the IHR(2005) in public health event management in air travel

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Global Capacities, Alert & Response Support to Assessment, Development and Maintenance (CAD) Ports, Airports and Ground
Objectives

- Overview of WHO
- Introduction to the International Health Regulations
- IHR(2005) and Points of Entry
- WHO and the Ebola virus disease outbreak
The World Health Organization (WHO)

- WHO is the directing and coordinating authority on international health within the United Nations’ system.

- WHO experts produce health guidelines and standards, and help countries to address public health issues.

- WHO also supports and promotes health research. Through WHO, governments can jointly tackle global health problems and improve people’s well-being.

- WHO and its Member States work with many partners, including UN agencies, donors, nongovernmental organizations, WHO collaborating centres and the private sector.
Overvew of WHO and IHR

WHO Headquarters, Regional and Country Offices

People
Last but not least, WHO is people. Over 8000 public health experts including doctors, epidemiologists, scientists, managers, administrators and other professionals from all over the world work for WHO in 147 country offices, six regional offices and at the headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
International Health Regulations (2005)
International Health Regulations IHR (2005)

- Negotiated by WHO’s Member States, the IHR establish rules that countries must follow to identify disease outbreaks and stop them from spreading.

- In 2005, the IHR were expanded to cover new diseases such as SARS, and new strains of influenza, along with established diseases such as polio.

- Coming into force June 2007, the revised IHR ask countries to build up their capacity to prevent, protect against and control disease outbreaks. The new rules also give WHO a more direct role in investigating and stopping outbreaks.

- WHO is working closely with countries to ensure they have the skills and people in place to carry out this work and to provide training and expertise where it is needed.
What do the IHR call for?

- Strengthened national capacity for surveillance and control, including at ports, airports and ground crossings, and travel and transport
- Prevention, alert and response to international public health emergencies
- Global partnership and international collaboration
- Rights, obligations and procedures, and progress monitoring

IHR (2005)
A commitment of 195 States Parties
The stated purpose and scope of the IHR are "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."

Because the IHR are not limited to specific diseases, but are applicable to health risks, irrespective of their origin or source, they will follow the evolution of diseases and the factors affecting their emergence and transmission.

The IHR also require States to strengthen core surveillance and response capacities at the primary, intermediate and national level, as well as at designated international ports, airports and ground crossings.

They further introduce a series of health documents, including ship sanitation certificates and an international certificate of vaccination or prophylaxis for travelers.
Key Features of IHR (2005)

- Each State Party will designate or establish a *National Focal Point* (NFP), accessible at all times to communicate with WHO IHR contact points (Article 4)

- Prescribing a protocol for determining a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) including establishing an *Emergency Committee* to advise on *temporary measures*. (Article 12)

- Cooperation of WHO with intergovernmental organizations and international bodies (Article 14)
States Parties shall utilize existing national structures and resources to meet their core capacity requirements under these Regulations, including with regard to:

- their surveillance, reporting, notification, verification, response and collaboration activities;

- their activities concerning designated airports, ports and ground crossings and associated inspections of conveyances.

**Timeline**

2007: Planning  
2009: Implementation  
2012: Possible extensions
2014:  
2016:

"As soon as possible but no later than five years from entry into force ..."
Example of IHR Framework

- Accessibility at all times
- Primary channel for WHO-NFP event-related communications
- Disseminate information within WHO
- "Activate" the WHO assessment and response system

WHO IHR Contact Point

- Determine Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)
- Make temporary and standing recommendations

WHO Director-General

- Notification Consultation Report Verification

National IHR Focal Points (NFP)

- Ministries and sectors concerned
- Other competent organizations (IAEA etc.)

Unusual health events

- Detect
- Assess
- Report
- Respond

National surveillance and response systems

Communication

Community
What is the IHR system for it?

- Notification
- Reports
- Consultation
- Verification

National IHR Focal Point
(One per State Party)

WHO IHR Contact Point
(One per WHO Region)

Event Information Site
The IHR National Focal Point - NFP

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<tr>
<td>National IHR Focal Point Office:</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Directorate of Primary Health Care</td>
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<td>Ministry of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sağlık Bakanlığı Mühendislik ve Caddesi 3 Sihhiye</td>
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<tr>
<td>06434 Ankara</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
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<td>Responsible person:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Mehmet Ali Torunoglu</td>
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<td>Deputy Director General</td>
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Availability at all times for communication with WHO

NFP is an institution, rather than an individual

NFP is in charge for urgent IHR communications with WHO and for sharing information with all relevant sectors in their country
IHR at Points of Entry

Main Goals

Protect the health of travellers and population and avoid-reduce spread of disease

Keep airports, ports and ground crossings terminals running and aircrafts, ships and ground vehicles operating in a sanitary condition and free of sources of infection and contamination, as far as practicable.

Capacity in place for detection, containment at source and to respond to emergency and implement public health recommendations, limiting unnecessary health-based restrictions on trade and travel.
IHR implementation at ports, airports and ground crossings

**PREVENTION**
- Containing known public health risks
- Routine control of “Sanitary conditions” at points of entry and conveyances
- Risk management

**EARLY WARNING**
- Detecting relevant health events
- Inspection, Information and verification
- Risk assessment

**RESPONSE**
- Responding to public health emergencies
- Support to investigation and contingency plans to adopt control measures
- Event management

Conveyances inspection programmes and control measures
EXPECTED RESULTS with IHR implementation at PoE

- Facilities at points of entry are maintained in a sanitary condition, free of infection or contamination, including vectors and reservoirs.

- Routine measures are in place for travellers, conveyances, cargo, goods and postal parcels.

- A contingency plan for public health emergencies is effectively available and operational at all designated PoE and in all countries.

- Capacity to rapidly implement international public health recommendations at designated points of entry.

- Coordination between WHO and other Organizations
Collaborations in Travel and Transport

Synergies in Public Health

Maritime Sector

Air Sector

Cross – border collaboration

IMO

ILO

UNWTO

AIRSAN

SHIPSAN Act

World Health Organization
WHO Support for Strengthening Public Health Capacity at Points of Entry - POE

- Provide technical support and advice for building capacities for prevention, early detection, and control of public health risks
- Support preparedness capacity development for event management and emergency response
- Provide WHO Certification for IHR of capacities at airports and ports
- Foster international collaboration in a multisectoral approach

ACTIVITIES

- Trainings
- Guidelines
- Networking
- Activities in all WHO Regions
WHO PoE Guidance and Tools
WHO Guidance and Tools related to PoE

PUBLISHED

Air travel

Public health emergency
Preparedness & Response

Ports and Ships

PoE core capacity and surveillance

WHO Learning Program for Ship Inspection and Issuance of SSC under IHR 2005 and EVD Management at PoE
WHO PoE Guidance and tools under development

Event management

- WHO Technical Advice for Event Management in Air Transport
- WHO Technical Advice for Event Management on board ships

Ground Crossings

- Procedures for Airport and Port Certification

Vector

- Vector Surveillance and Control at PoE
- PoE Vector Identification Platform
International Health Regulations (IHR)

Ports, airports and ground crossings

While international travel and trade bring many health benefits linked to economic development, they may also cause public health risks that can spread internationally at airports, ports and ground crossings through persons, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods and postal parcels.

The IHR (2005) provide a public health response in the form of obligations and standing or temporary non-binding recommendations in ways that avoid unnecessary interference with international travel and trade.

States Parties to the IHR (2005) must strengthen public health capacities at designated airports, ports and ground crossings in both routine circumstances and when responding to events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern.

IHR authorized list of ports
List of ports and other information

PAGNet
About PAGNet

Guidance, advice and tools
Training

Global training initiative on IHR(2005) implementation at PoE

- Competence framework
- Training toolkits
- Pool of experts and training institutions
- Training opportunities
WHO leadership and collaboration in Ebola virus disease response

Publications and technical guidelines

View our directory and gain access to the latest publications and technical guidelines on managing the prevention, treatment and response of Ebola virus disease produced by WHO.

View more

Training

WHO/C.Black

Gain access to training resources produced by WHO and its partners which are grouped by theme.

View more

Response

How we stop transmission in all affected countries.

Preparedness

How we prevent outbreaks in any new countries.

Research and development

Fast track access to new health technologies.
Examples of WHO support for Ebola

- Publications and technical guidelines (e.g. travel documents)
  - Ebola event management at points of entry; interim guidance
  - Travel and transport risk assessment; guidance for public health authorities and transport sector

- Training
  - Gain access to training resources produced by WHO and partners

- Response
  - Situation reports, regularly updated and shared
  - When an outbreak is detected WHO responds by supporting surveillance, community engagement, case management, laboratory services, contact tracing, infection control, logistical support and training and assistance with safe burial practices.

- Preparedness
  - Assessment preparedness missions to countries, affected or at-risk affected countries

- Research and development
  - Supporting vaccine trials with partner countries and agencies
Thank you

Merci

Gracias

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спасибо

Obrigado