Public Health Emergency Contingency Planning at Points of Entry

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Daniel Lins Menucci
Global Capacities, Alert & Response Support to IHR
Capacity Assessment,
Development and Maintenance (CAD) Ports, Airports and Ground Crossings
Objectives

- Review IHR core capacities requirements for public health events
  - public health emergency/contingency plan
  - Responding to public health emergency of international concern

- Preparedness Planning
  - Scope and Purpose
  - Guiding Principles
  - Key considerations
  - Steps in planning
## IHR provisions concerning public health events

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Emergency Plans at Points of Entry

One of the IHR (2005) core capacities requirements for designated PoE:

- An agreed, updated, documented public health emergency contingency plan,
- integrated with other public health response plans (national/intermediate/local levels) and other emergency operational plans at point of entry,
- covering relevant services at point of entry and disseminated to all key stakeholders.
Public Health Emergency Contingency plan: coordinator, contact points for relevant PoE, PH & other agencies

Provide assessment & care for affected travellers or animals: arrangements with medical, veterinary facilities for isolation, treatment & other services

Interview suspect or affected persons:
Provide space, separate from other travellers

Assessment and quarantine of suspect or affected travellers:
preferably in facilities away from airport

To apply recommended measures:
disinsect, disinfect, decontaminate, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods, postal parcels, etc

Transfer of travellers with infection/contamination:
Provide access to required equipment, personnel with protection gear for

To apply entry/exit control for departing & arriving passengers

Capacity requirements for responding to potential PHEIC (emergency)
Example of IHR Framework

WHO Director-General

WHO IHR Contact Point

National IHR Focal Points (NFP)

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

Accessibility at all times
Communication with WHO
Dissemination of information nationally
Consolidating input nationally

Unusual health events
Detect
Assess
Report
Respond

Detect
Assess
Report
Respond

WHO IHR Contact Point

WHO IHR Focal Points (NFP)

Emergency Committee
Review Committee
Expert Roster
Other competent organizations (IAEA etc.)
Ministries and sectors concerned

Notification Consultation Report Verification
National surveillance and response systems

International Health Regulations

International Health Regulations

International Health Regulations
Lessons learned from Pandemic and other events...

Need for preparedness (past experience and training counts...)
Updating/validating guidance and tools
Revising standards
Cooperation and coordination as key issue
Risk assessment and risk communication
Political pressure and potential and real impact of event on decision making and adopting health measures
Globalization of information and risk perception
IHR and new role of PoE (NOT ONLY ENTRY BARRIERS...)
The traveller and employees and its potential active role....
Main goals

• Protect the health of travellers (passengers and crew) and protect the health of the population (avoid-reduce spread of disease)

• Keep airport, ports and ground crossings terminals running and aircrafts flying, ships sailing and ground vehicles in a sanitary condition and free of sources of infection and contamination, as far as practicable, with containment at source and capacity to respond to emergency and implement public health recommendations, limiting unnecessary health-based restrictions on trade and travel
Contingency Planning

Guidance for public health measures and emergency planning at designated points of entry (WPRO doc. and draft)

Acknowledgment: WHO WPRO – Dr. Takeshi Kasai, Dr. Li, Ailan, Mr Andrew Bonica (consultant WPRO)
POE public health emergency planning...

- Developing a PHECP at designated POE is an important minimum requirement under IHR.

- Improving and sustaining "readiness" is a continuing process (e.g. EOC, risk assessment capacity and operational research).

- A broader approach is required to operationalize the plans (local, national and international context).
Purpose & Scope

Scope:
- For national and local public health authorities, emergency planners and POE planners to develop a PHECP at designated POE’s

Purpose:
- Drive collaboration to develop an effective PHECP
- Secondary objectives:
  - IHR compliance, interoperability with national plans, strategic relationships (local, national, international), core capacity building & up-skilling of POE health officials

“Identify, build and connect the required relationships between Local POE, national (PH and other authorities), & international stakeholders”

“Develop a plan – not just that achieves IHR compliance but is the best defense of dealing with the next PH emergency or PHEIC” – in times of emergency people need to have a plan to focus them
Core Themes and Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

- Flexibility to suit a range of PH emergencies
- Consideration and harmonization with existing plans
- Plan to develop “surge capacity” on an as-required basis
- Place equal emphasis on readiness, and recovery phases – not just response
- Ensure adequate budgeting for developing, exercising & refreshing / updating plans
- Ensure full respect for dignity, human rights and freedoms as per IHR (2005)
Key Planning Considerations

“The considerations with the most impact on success or failure of a response”

1. Communication
2. Relationships
3. Command & Control Structures
4. Decision Support / Making
5. People & resources
6. Interoperability of Plans
7. Additional Planning Considerations
   - Risk profile (national, local, POE)
   - Policies & Legislation (national, local)
   - Mandatory requirements of other bodies eg. ICAO
Recommended Steps to Developing a PHECP

“Develop a plan that is realistic & sustainable for the POE taking into account existing and surge capacity, requirements and resources available”

1. Establish a planning team
2. Prepare for Planning phase
3. Initiate the planning phase
4. Write the plan
5. Review the plan
6. Test the plan
7. Stakeholder sign-off
8. Publish and communicate
9. Brief and train required personnel
10. Schedule regular exercises
11. Review, update and maintain as required
Recommended Structure of a PHECP

“Member states have different approaches to structures of emergency plans, develop what works best for you and leads to the best plan being developed for your POE”

Options for structuring
- Informational, operational (SOP’s and protocols)
- Key information first or Chronological
- Use of alert codes /modes or phases
- clustering information by alert code / phase

Recommended Structure
- Introduction
- Operational Response
- Supporting Information (annexes and detailed info)
Thank you

Merci

Gracias

謝謝

Obrigado