

# Updates from International bodies related to international travel

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# Current Temporary Recommendations under the IHR - 13<sup>th</sup> Emergency Committee - 13 October 2022

Statement on the thirteenth meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

**Continue to adjust any remaining international travel-related measures, based on risk assessments, and to not require proof of vaccination against COVID-19 as a prerequisite for international travel.**

[https://www.who.int/news/item/18-10-2022-statement-on-the-thirteenth-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-coronavirus-disease-\(covid-19\)-pandemic](https://www.who.int/news/item/18-10-2022-statement-on-the-thirteenth-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)-pandemic)

# Resolution A74\_R7 :Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies

## Urges Member States

- (10) to **cooperate** in order to **facilitate cross-border travel** of persons for essential purposes during a health emergency and avoid unnecessary interference with trade without undermining efforts to prevent the spread of the causative pathogen, in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005);
- (11) to support stronger coordination with relevant multilateral organizations to **improve understanding and mechanisms** to deal with **travel and trade considerations**, including on how best to de-link travel from trade restrictions during public health emergencies of international concern, pursuant to the International Health Regulations (2005), with the goal of **maximizing the effectiveness of public health measures** while **minimizing negative economic impacts**, including by facilitating the manufacturing and movement of critical medical supplies essential to the public health response;

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## REQUESTS the Director-General, as soon as practicably possible and in consultation with Member States

(4) to lead an evidence-based process, in consultation with Member States , relevant United Nations and other international organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate, and taking into account the recommendations of the IHR Review Committee:

i) to develop practical guidance ... to provide public health response ... that are **commensurate with risks** ... which **do not unduly impede cross-border movement** ...

iii) to develop recommendations, taking into consideration national circumstances, on the **appropriate implementation of travel restrictions**, including guidance to support countries to facilitate the return of citizens and permanent residents to their territories and, vice versa, and to **facilitate the departure from and transit through** their territory of nationals and permanent residents of third countries;

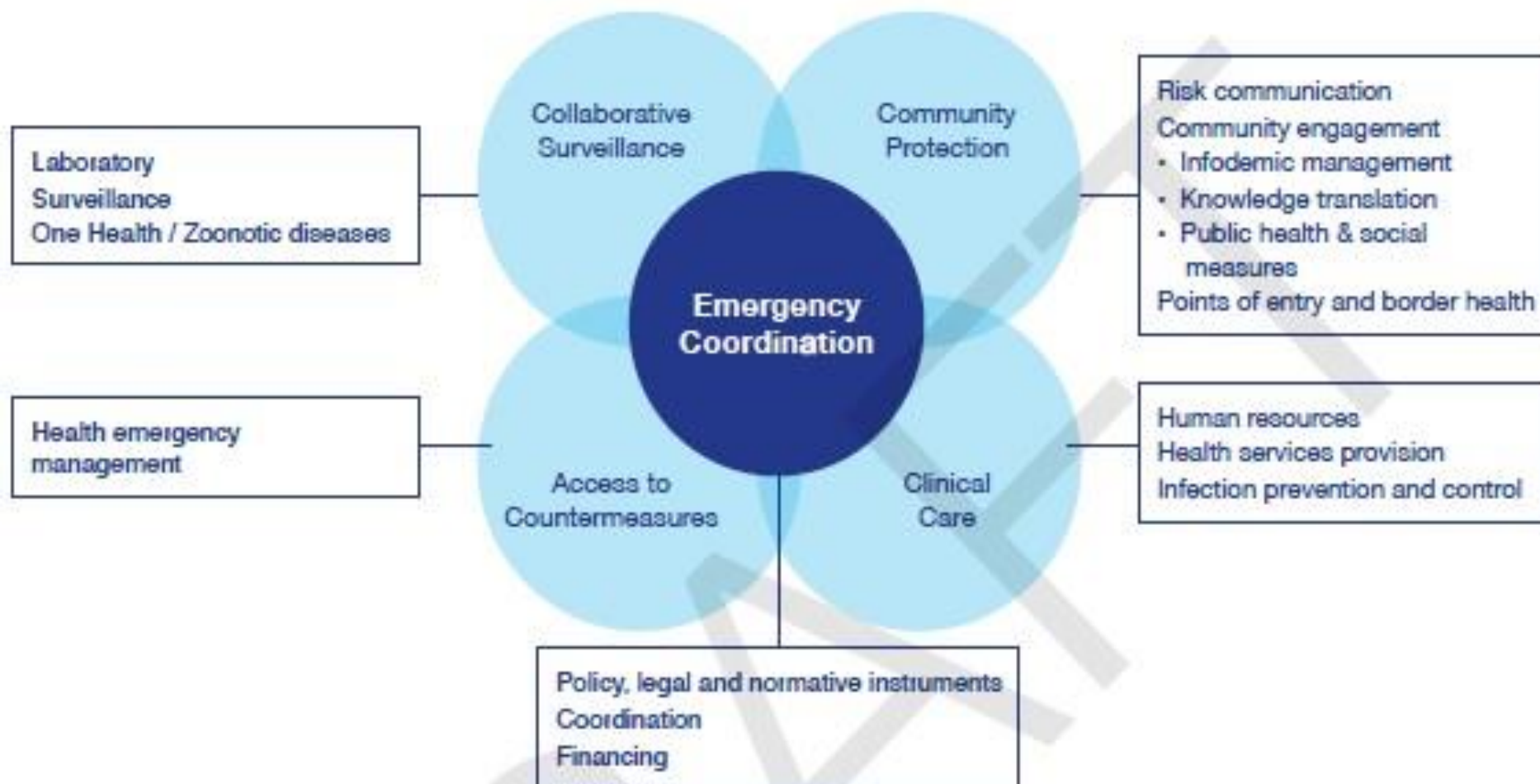
(iv) to **develop guidance** on situations that may occur in the context of **international conveyances**, seafaring and aviation during public health emergencies, such as outbreaks on international cruise ships, including the **division of roles and responsibilities** of the various actors concerned when responding to such situations;

# WHA 75

## WHAs

- WHASS2/2021/REC/1: intergovernmental negotiating body (INB)
  - Draft pandemic treaty: strengthening **Coordination, collaboration and cooperation**
- Decision WHA75(9) (2022) on Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies
  - Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies (WGPR) to be renamed the 'Working Group on IHR amendments' (WGIHR)
  - Targeted amendments to the IHR
  - International travel: amendments to avoid interference with international travel and trade

# Five interconnected core subsystems for health emergency preparedness, readiness, response and resilience



# Proposals for IHR amendments submitted to the WHO Secretariat

- 16 Member States submitted either individual proposals or on behalf of groups of states – 93 Member States in total.
- Proposals for amendments were submitted for:
  - 33 of the 66 articles of the IHR, with 6 new Articles
  - 5 of the 9 annexes and a new Annex 2 and new Annex 10
- Member States used different styles to identify the proposed amendments – an article-by-article compilation, using a single format to illustrate the proposed amendments, is used by the Review Committee for analysis.
- Submissions were shared in all official languages via email with all Member States.

# Areas of the IHR for which proposals for amendments were submitted

- Scope, purpose and principles
- Responsible authorities
- Notification, verification, and information sharing
- Risk assessment, including determination of PHEIC and intermediate level of alert
- Public health response and temporary recommendations
- Convening and functioning of the Emergency Committee
- Travel measures
- Collaboration and coordination
- Compliance/Implementation Committee (*NEW*)
- Core capacities

# IHR Review Committee made specific recommendations on travel measures

- State Parties are advised to apply a **risk-based approach** to implementing additional health measures in response to public health risks and acute public health events.
- Regular and **frequent risk assessments and re-evaluations** of measures in place should be conducted based on WHO advice.
- **Travel measures** should be ensured to be **necessary, proportionate and non-discriminatory**

# Next steps

- Targeted IHR amendment to strengthen collaboration between countries and partners to facilitate international travel
- Improved information sharing to support risk assessment and response decisions (including travel advice) that are commensurate to risk to prevent unnecessary interference with international travel & trade and movement of critical technical support for global response
- A new international treaty for pandemic preparedness and response is being discussed to foster a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to strengthen national, regional and global coordination, capacities and resilience to future pandemics.

# Thank You!