Developing Ethical Guidance for epidemics and outbreaks

What is the context?



Dr. Abha Saxena Coordinator, Global Health Ethics Knowledge, Ethics & Research

Leadership priorities



Our leadership priorities give focus and direction to our work. They are areas where it is vital for WHO to lead—the key issues which stand out from the body of our work.

WHO values

WHO has been at the forefront of improving health around the world since 1948.

Health:

is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, not just the absence of disease or infirmity

is the fundamental right of every human being, everywhere

is crucial to peace and security

depends on the cooperation of all individuals and States

should be shared: extending knowledge to all peoples is essential

The big idea What will we do? Universal health coverage combines Respond to demand from countries access to the services needed to seeking practical advice on how to take achieve good health with financial universal health coverage forward. protection to prevent ill health leading to poverty. Universal health coverage The big idea The big idea WHO has a leadership role in The world must sustain the gains that have been made towards the establishing the systems that make up 2015 Millermium Development Goals the global defence against shocks and help create more equal levels coming from the microbial world. of achievement. What will we do? Health-related What will we do? Support countries to put in The Goals will integrate many place the capacities required Developm aspects of our work, particularly by the International Health building robust health systems Regulations (2005) and report and effective health institutions on progress. We will strengthen for sustainable and equitable our own systems and networks health outcomes. to ensure a rapid and well-coordinated response to WHO public health emergencies. leadership The big idea The big idea priorities The rise of noncommunicable Equity in public health diseases has devastating depends on access to essential, health consequences for individuals, families and high-quality and affordable medical technologies. communities, and threatens Improving access to medical to overwhelm health systems. products is central to the achievement of universal What will we do? health coverage. It is a priority to coordinate a What will we do? coherent, multisectoral response at global, regional and local levels. We will continue to improve access to safe, quality, affordable and effective medicines. We will support innovation for affordable health technology, local production, Social, economic and and national regulatory authorities. environmental determinants The big idea What will we do? To improve people's health outcomes and increase healthy life We will work with other sectors to act on what causes disease and ill. health. Our work will address health expectancy requires action across the range of contextual factors associated determinants and promote equity. with ill health as well as inequitable health outcomes.

WHO directs and coordinates international health by:

providing leadership on matters critical to health

shaping the health research agenda

defining norms and standards for health

articulating policy options for health

providing technical support and building capacity to monitor health trends



IHR

- 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.
- whether infectious, chemical, biological, or radiological
- Legally binding regulations

Core functions of the IHR



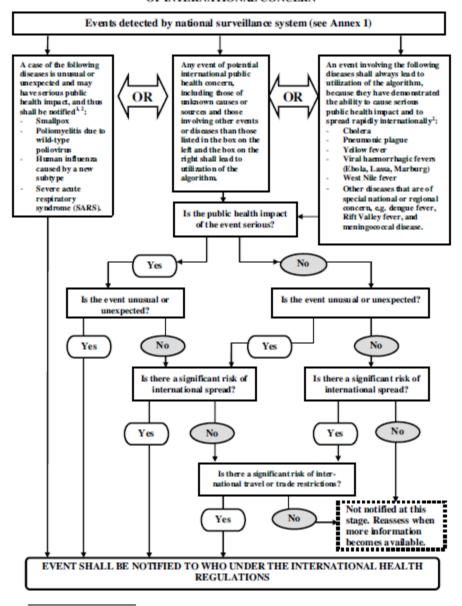
Determination of a public health emergency of international concern

- Is the public health impact of the event serious?
- Is the event unusual or unexpected?
- Is there a significant risk of international spread?
- Is there a significant risk of international travel or trade restrictions?



ANNEX 2

DECISION INSTRUMENT FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND NOTIFICATION OF EVENTS THAT MAY CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN



As per WHO case definitions.

emergency of international concern

Determination of a public health

² The disease list shall be used only for the purposes of these Regulations.

The IHR Emergency Committee

This committee advises the Director General on the recommended measures to be promulgated on an emergency basis, known as temporary recommendations.

Temporary recommendations include health measures to be implemented by the State Party experiencing the PHEIC, or by other States Parties, to prevent or reduce the international spread of disease and avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic.



EVD - IHR Committee recommendations

- The Head of State
- Health Ministers and other health leaders
- National disaster/emergency management mechanisms
 - Manage the epidemic internally
 - Exit screening
 - No international travel of Ebola contacts or cases
 - Funerals and burials
 - Contact tracing



WHO support to IHR

- Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)
 - Global Alert and Response System
- Public Health Logistics
- Risk Assessment
- SHOC (Strategic Health Operations Center)
- Public Health Emergency Operations Network (EOCNET)



Ethical Guidance

Comprehensive ethics guidance in this important leadership area is lacking

Ethics Guidance for the management of pandemic influenza, for HIV/AIDS, for SARS, and now for EVD exists.

Would it be helpful to have overarching ethical guidance for the public health response to epidemics and outbreaks?

