

# Developing Ethical Guidance for epidemics and outbreaks

What is the context?



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# 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



## 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



**The IHR help countries to prevent, detect, inform about and respond to public health events in a facilitated manner.**

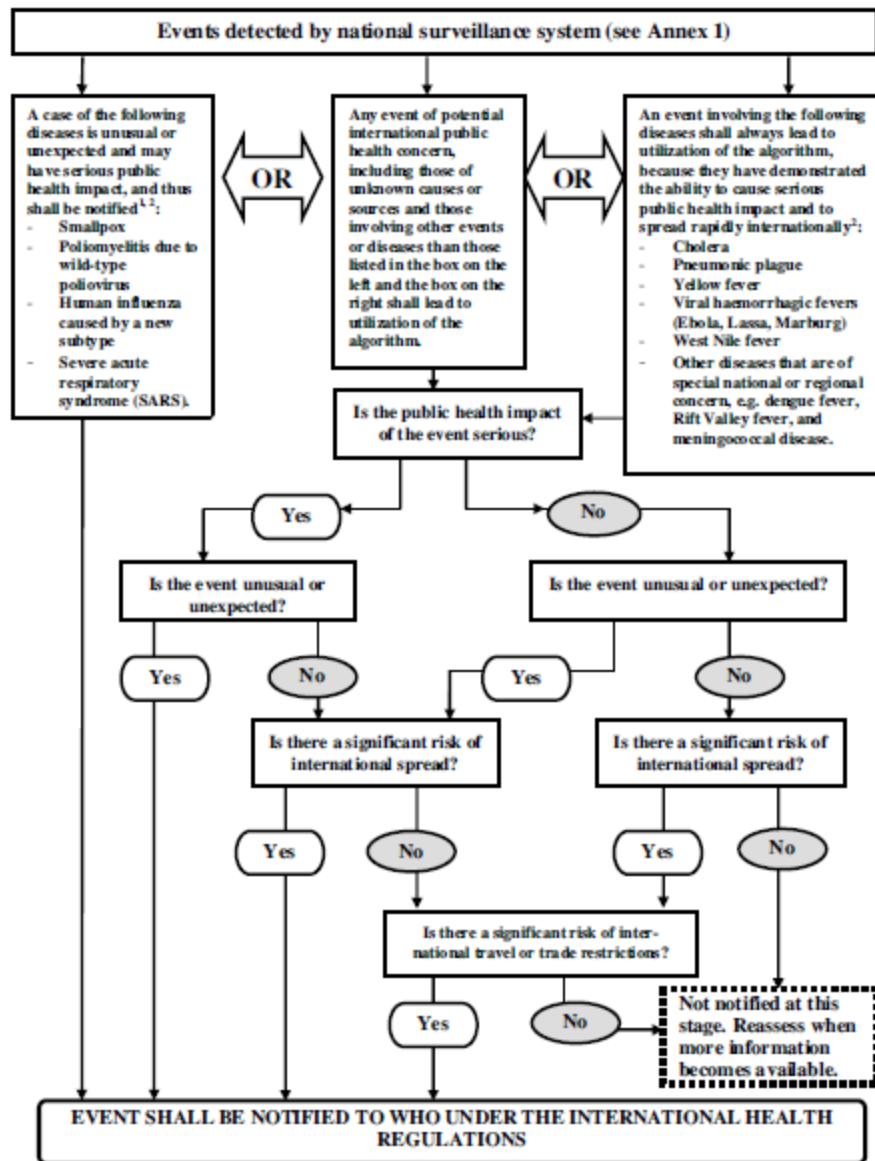
# ***Determination of a public health emergency of international concern***

- 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?



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

**Determination of a public health  
emergency of international concern**



<sup>1</sup> As per WHO case definitions.

<sup>2</sup> 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

mass gatherings



# 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?