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Emergencies: Ten things you need to do to implement the International Health Regulations

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26 May 2014 | Q&A

Know the IHR; purpose, scope, principles and concepts

Update national legislation

Recognize shared realities and the need for collective defences

Monitor and report on IHR implementation progress

Notify, report, consult and inform WHO

Understand WHO's role in international event detection, joint assessment and response

Participate in the PHEIC determination and WHO recommendations-making processes

Strengthen national surveillance and response capacities

Increase public health security at ports airports and ground crossings

Use and disseminate IHR health documents at points of entry

The IHR require the implementation of a range of health documents at ports, airports and ground crossings. Failure by States Parties to use and include these documents in their daily operations may result in unnecessary disruption to international traffic.

Model Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate/Ship Sanitation Control Certificate

The Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate/Ship Sanitation Control Certificate replaced the narrower in scope Deratting/Deratting Exemption Certificate on 15 June 2007.

Model Maritime Declaration of Health

The Maritime Declaration of Health reflects the broader scope of the IHR and currently accepted technical standards and terminology.



Model International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis replaces the International Certificate of Vaccination or Revaccination against Yellow Fever

Yellow fever is the only disease specifically designated under the IHR for which proof of vaccination or prophylaxis may be required for travellers as a condition of entry to a State. The “International certificate of vaccination or revaccination against yellow fever” was replaced by the “International certificate of vaccination or prophylaxis” (ICVP). Clinicians issuing the certificate should note that the main difference from the old certificate is that they have to specify in writing in the space provided that the disease for which the certificate is issued is “yellow fever”. The ICVP does not contain a references to a designated vaccination centre.

Health Part of the Aircraft General Declaration

This is a document of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a United Nations agency. The document is periodically reviewed by ICAO Member States, and has historically, for practical purposes, been reproduced in the annexes of the IHR. Consequently, the July

2007 revision of the Declaration adopted by ICAO has been reproduced in the 2008 second edition of the IHR (2005).

WHO TEAM Emergencies Preparedness

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