



Coordination of public health surveillance between points of entry and the national public health surveillance system

Advising principles

2nd edition



**World Health
Organization**

WHO/WHE/CPI/LSS/2018.41

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Suggested citation. Coordination of public health surveillance between points of entry and the national public health surveillance system. Advising principles. 2nd edition. Lyon: World Health Organization; 2018. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP) data. CIP data are available at <http://apps.who.int/iris>.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The update of this guide and development of its implementation toolbox has been performed by José Guerra under the guidance of Pierre Nabeth and Sébastien Cognat. WHO expresses its gratitude to those who have contributed their time and expertise. Contributors met from 20 to 22 June 2017 in Lyon, France to review the updated guide and its implementation toolbox.

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ACRONYMS

IHR	International Health Regulations (2005)
NFP	National IHR Focal Point
NPHSS	National Public Health Surveillance System
PHEIC	Public Health Emergency of International Concern
PoE	Points of Entry
SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
WHO	World Health Organization

GLOSSARY

“Affected”: persons, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods, postal parcels or human remains that are infected or contaminated, or carry sources of infection or contamination, so as to constitute a public health risk (1).

“Aircraft”: an aircraft making an international voyage (1).

“Airport”: any airport where international flights arrive or depart (1).

“Arrival” of a conveyance: in the case of seagoing vessel, arrival or anchoring in the defined area of a port; in the case of an aircraft, arrival at an airport; in the case of an inland navigation vessel on an international voyage, arrival at a point of entry; in the case of a train or road vehicle, arrival at a point of entry (1).

“Cargo”: goods carried on a conveyance or in a container (1).

“Contact tracing”: identification of persons who may have been exposed to an infectious disease by another infected person (2). It aims to identify new cases and respond to them in a timely way, hence preventing the further spread of the disease (3).

“Contamination”: presence of an infectious or toxic agent or matter on a human or animal body surface, in or on a product prepared for consumption or on other inanimate objects, including conveyances, that may constitute a public health risk (1).

“Competent authority”: authority responsible for the implementation and application of health measures under the International Health Regulations (2005) (1).

“Conveyance”: aircraft, ship, train, road vehicle or other means of transport on an international voyage (1).

“Conveyance operator”: natural or legal person in charge of a conveyance or their agent (1).

“Crew”: persons on board a conveyance who are not passengers (1).

“Departure”: for persons, baggage, cargo, conveyances or goods, the act of leaving a territory (1).

“Designated point of entry”: airports, ports and certain ground crossings designated by States Parties to develop the capacities set forth in Annex 1 of the International Health Regulations (2005). These capacities include: an access to appropriate medical services (with diagnostic facilities); services for the transport of ill persons; trained personnel to inspect ships, aircraft and other conveyances; maintenance of a safe environment; a programme and trained personnel for the control of vectors and reservoirs; a public health emergency contingency plan; capacities for responding to events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern (1).

“Event”: a manifestation of disease or an occurrence that creates a potential for disease (1).

“Ground crossing”: a point of land entry in a State Party, including one utilized by road vehicles and trains (1).

“Health measure”: procedures applied to prevent the spread of disease or contamination; a health measure does not include law enforcement or security measures (1).

“International Health Regulations (2005)”: international legal instrument entered into force on 15 June 2007 that is binding in 196 countries across the globe (IHR State Parties), including all WHO Member States. The regulations aim to help the international community prevent and respond to acute public health risks that have the potential to cross borders and threaten people worldwide.

“International voyage”: in the case of a conveyance, a voyage between points of entry in the territories of more than one State, or a voyage between points of entry in the territory or territories of the same State if the conveyance has contacts with the territory of any other State on its voyage but only as regards those contacts; in the case of a traveller, a voyage involving entry into the territory of a State other than the territory of the State in which that traveller has commenced the voyage (1).

“Invasive”: the puncture or incision of the skin or insertion of an instrument or foreign material into the body or the examination of a body cavity. For the purposes of this guide, medical examination of the ear, nose and mouth, temperature assessment using an ear, oral or cutaneous thermometer, or thermal imaging; medical inspection; auscultation; external palpation; retinoscopy; external collection of urine, faeces or saliva samples; external measurement of blood pressure; and electrocardiography shall be considered to be non-invasive (1).

“National IHR Focal Point”: the national centre, designated by each State Party, which shall be accessible at all times for communications with WHO IHR Contact Points under the International Health Regulations (2005) (1).

“National Public Health Surveillance System”: a nationwide coordination that enables all public health response levels (i.e. local, intermediate and national) to collect and share public health information to detect, monitor, control and prevent the occurrence and spread of public health events.

“Medical examination”: the preliminary assessment of a person by an authorized health worker or by a person under the direct supervision of the competent authority, to determine the person’s health status and potential public health risk to others, and may include the scrutiny of health documents, and a physical examination when justified by the circumstances of the individual case (1).

“Notification”: the mandatory or advised communication of information by a State Party to WHO as stated in article 6 of the International Health Regulations (2005).

“Point of entry”: a passage for international entry or exit of travellers, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods and postal parcels as well as agencies and areas providing services to them on entry or exit (1).

“Port”: a seaport or a port on an inland body of water, where ships on an international voyage arrive or depart (1).

“Public health emergency of international concern”: extraordinary event which is determined as provided

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