
IHR Operational Processes

- Articles 5-11

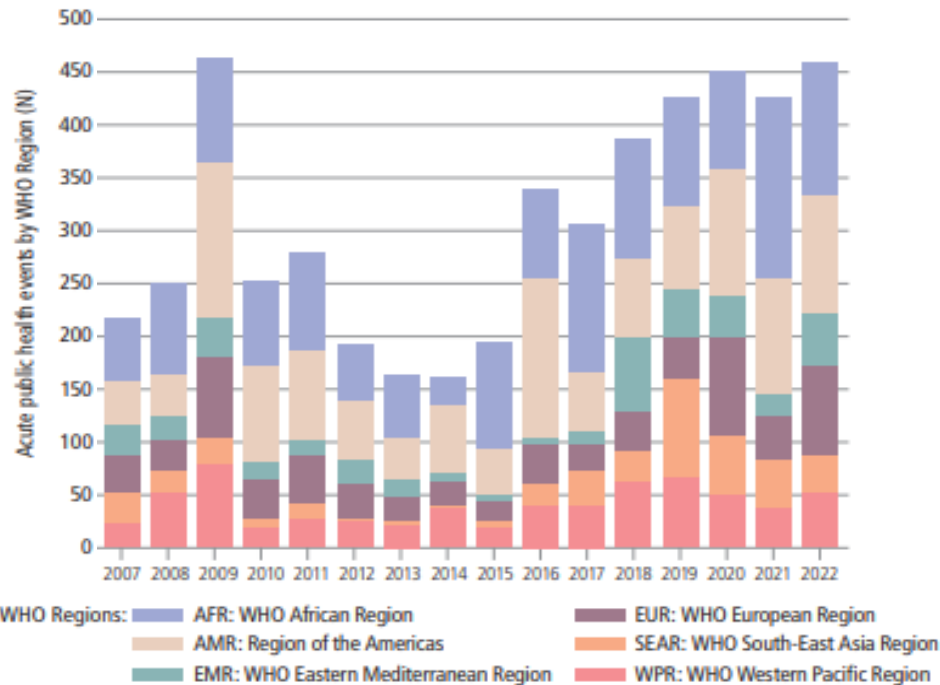
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IHR (2005) event notifications and PHEICs

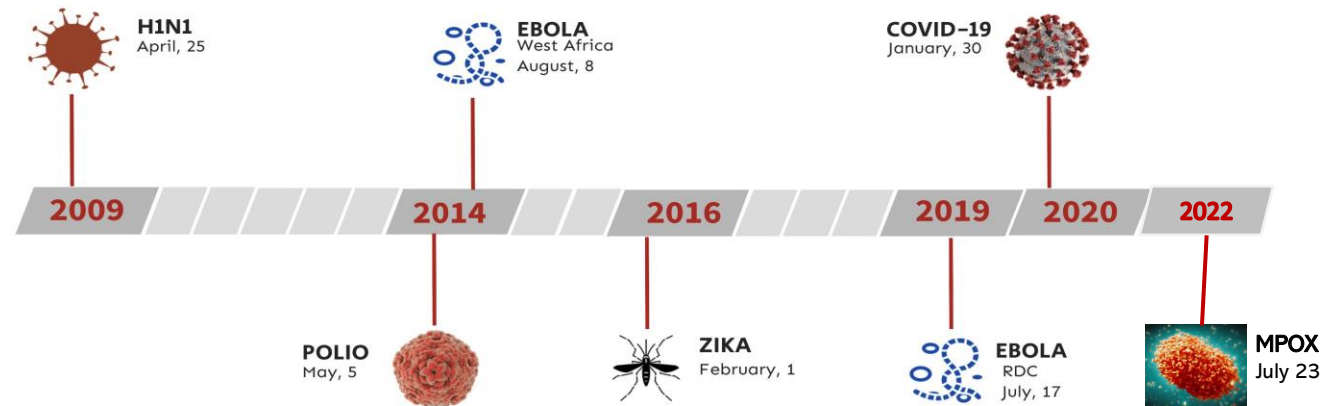
IHR (2005) are applied to all events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).

Since 2007 nearly 5000 events have been reported by States Parties under IHR (2005) to WHO & PHEICs declared

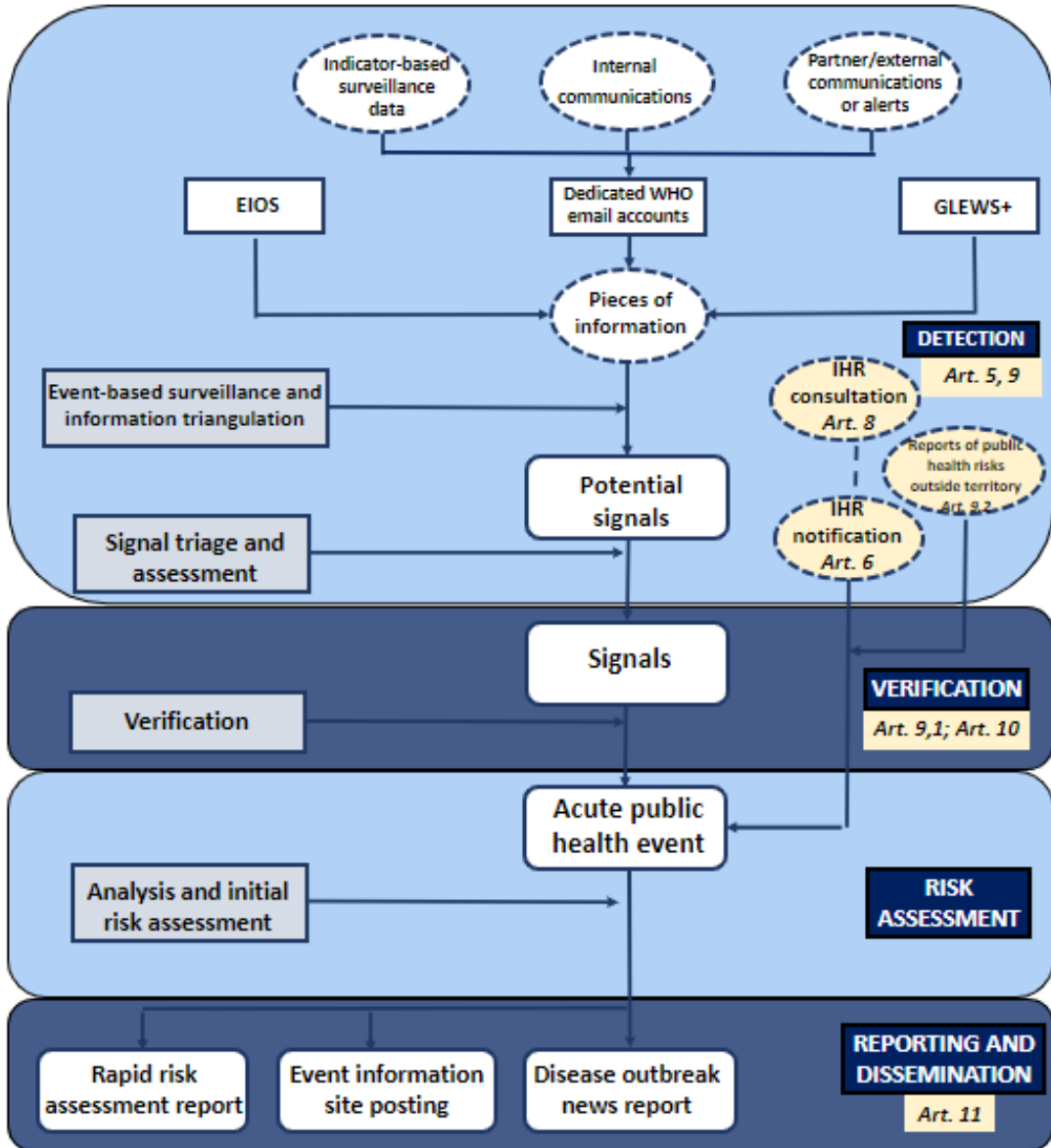
Acute public health events reported to WHO by Region between 2007 and 2022 (n=4861)



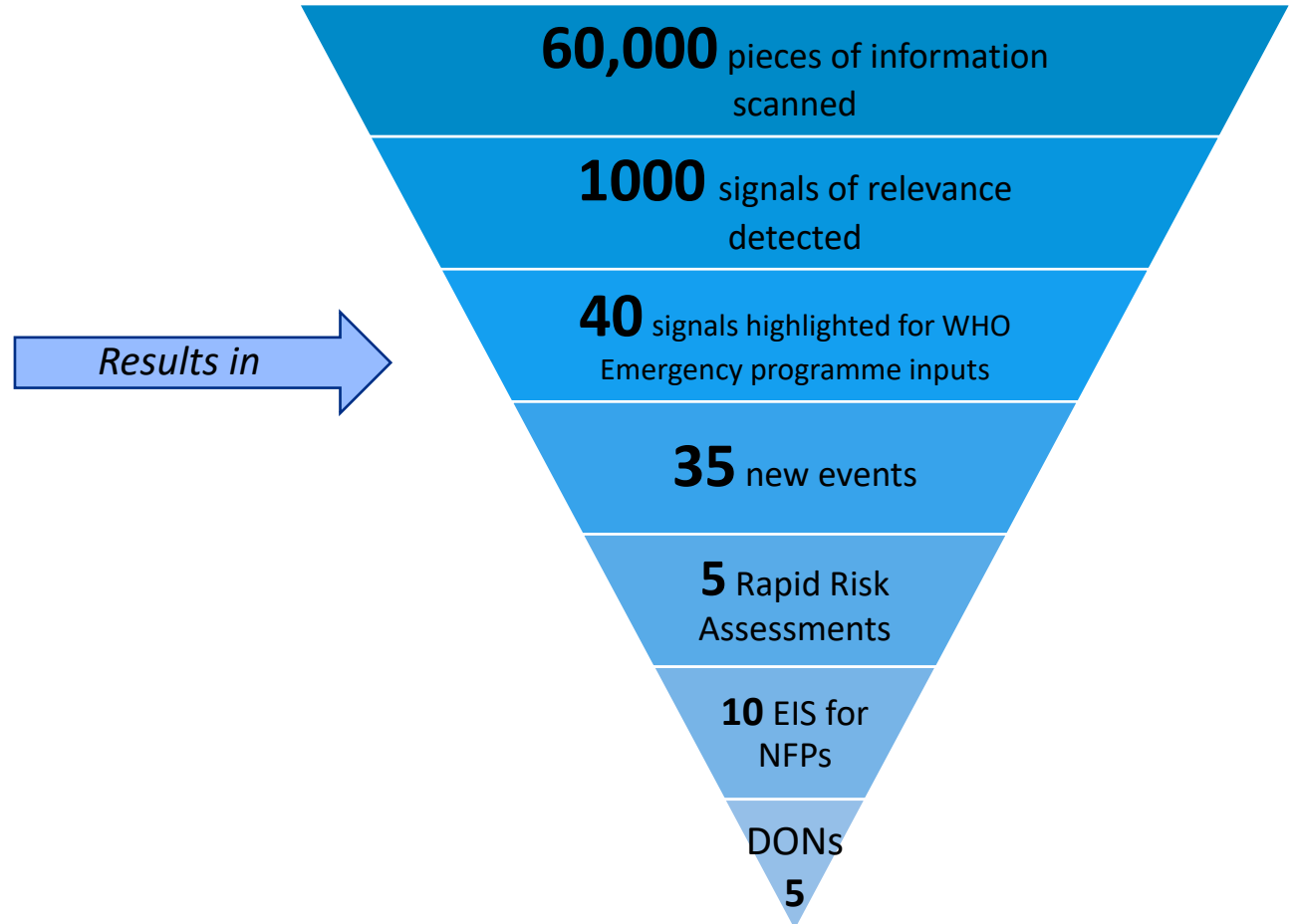
Public Health Emergencies of International Concern 2007 and 2022 (n=7)



WHO's Public Health Intelligence workflow



Average monthly stats



IHR (2005): early detection and notification

- IHR (2005) are applied to all events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).
- Member States - at the national level assess all reports of urgent events within 48 hours (Annex 1)
- **Notification** within 24 hours of assessment of public health information of all events which may constitute a PHEIC, through the national IHR Focal Point (Art. 6):
 - Irrespective of origin or source: chemical, biological or radionuclear; or from unknown etiology
- WHO may take into account reports from sources other than notifications and consultations (Art.9)

Notification assessment using Annex 2

Always notifiable

- Smallpox, SARS, Wild-type poliovirus, Human influenza caused by new subtype

Any event of potential international public health concern that meet two of the criteria;

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

Following notification

- obligation of continuous provision of accurate and sufficiently detailed information to WHO (Art 6.2)

How else does WHO detect events – Article 5.4

Article 5.4: WHO shall collect information regarding events through its surveillance activities and assess their potential to cause international disease spread and possible interference with international traffic.

WHO's Public Health Intelligence process



WHO's Global Public Health Intelligence Infrastructure

⑥ Regional Offices + HQ



147

Country Offices

in in countries, territories or areas around the globe



Global Network of Technical Experts

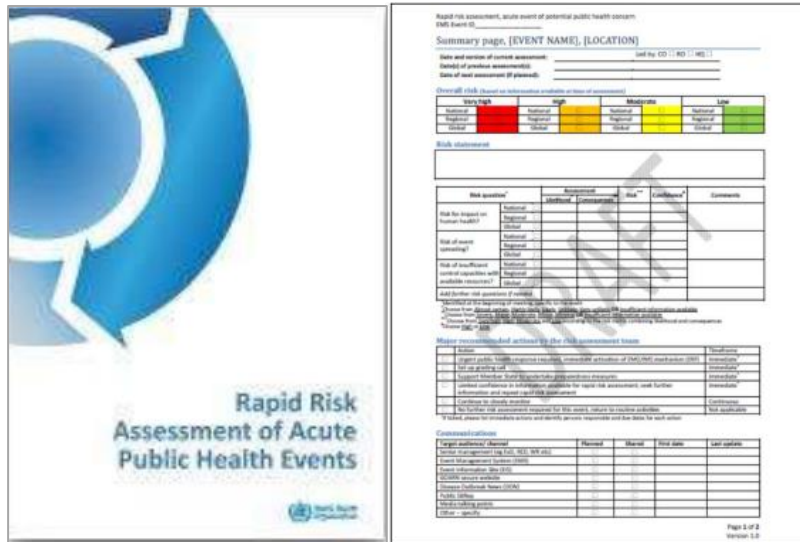
- Disease experts
- Antimicrobial resistance experts
- Laboratory experts
- Etc.

WHO Verification request (Art 10)

- WHO may take into account **reports from informal sources of information** (i.e., reports from other countries, informal information, media reports).
- WHO is mandated to obtain verification from States Parties of events that have not been reported by a State and may constitute a PHEIC (Articles 5.4, 9.1 and 10.1)
- Communication via regional IHR contact points and WHO country offices
- States Parties shall acknowledge these requests and provide available public health information on the status of the event within 24 hours, respectively (Article 10.2).
- In 2022, 66% of responses to verification requests were received in 24-48hrs.

Reason for WHO to request verification: strong indications of international public health implications (event which may constitute a PHEIC).

WHO's Rapid Risk Assessment



Major actions recommended by the risk assessment team

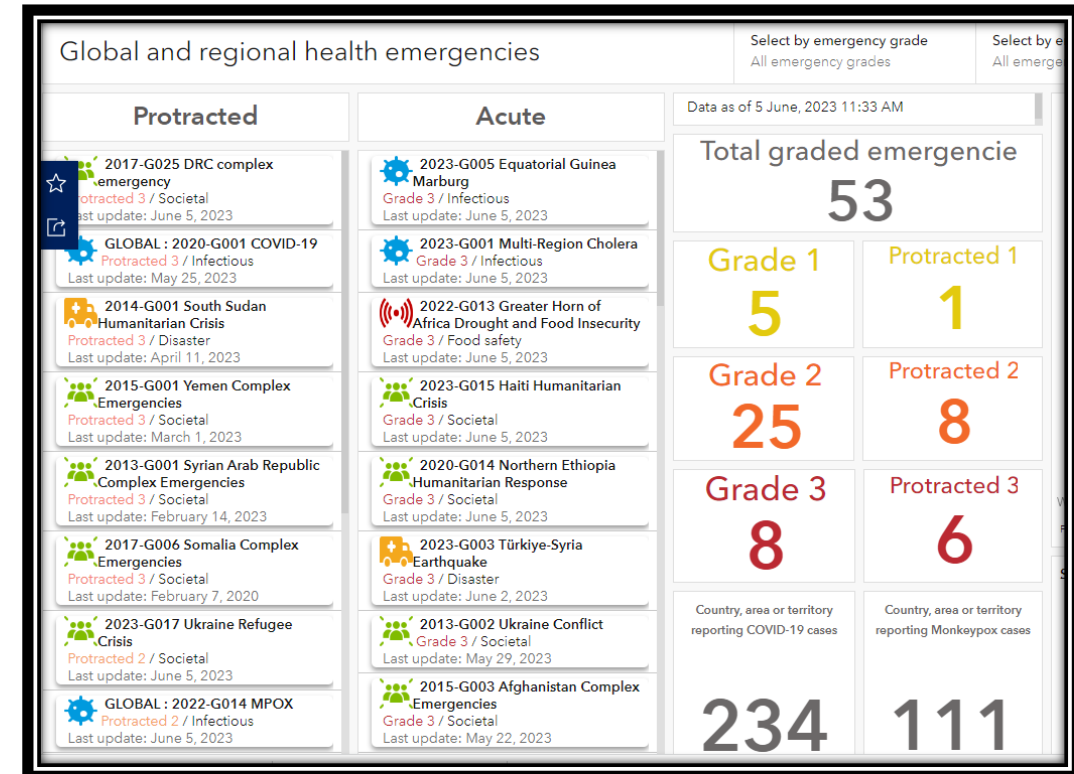
	Action	Timeframe
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refer the event for review by IHR Emergency Committee for consideration as a PHEIC by DG (Art 12, IHR)	Select.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Immediate activation of ERF response mechanism (IMS) as urgent public health response is required	Select.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommend setting up of grading call (funding can be accessed before grading completed)	Select.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Immediate support to response, but within limit of CFE (no grading recommended <u>at this point in time</u>)	Select.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rapidly seek further information and repeat RRA (including field risk assessment)	Select.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Support Member State to undertake preparedness measures	Select.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continue to closely monitor	Select.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No further risk assessment required for this event, return to routine activities	Select.

*If chosen, list actions and identify persons responsible and due dates for each action in section 2 (Supporting information)

- WHO internal process
 - Performed on available information
 - Involves all 3 level of WHO (HQ, RO, CO) and WHO technical teams
 - Potential consultation of external expert (WHO discretion)
- Formalize WHO' assessment of risks
- Reflect WHO's independent assessment including country's capacities /vulnerabilities to control outbreak/event
- Highlights urgent actions required including
 - Refers event for review of IHR EC for consideration as a PHEIC
 - Activation of Emergency Response Framework mechanisms
 - Recommend setting up a grading discussion
- Not public document
 - Could be shared with Member State when finalized
 - High or Very high overall risk shared with UN General Secretariat
 - Shared with GOARN Steering committee (unless documented reasons)

Emergency Response Framework & Grading

- The Emergency Response Framework (ERF) is **internal WHO guidance** on how WHO manages the risk assessment, grading and operational response to public health events, in support of Member States and affected communities.
- Focuses primarily on scaling up and managing response activities for acute events and emergencies.
- Adopts an all-hazards approach
- Grading is an internal activation process to determine the level of operational response required by WHO.
- If not already in place, grading activates the Incident Management System



Information Dissemination (Article 11)

- Sharing information with affected countries
- Sharing information with Member States
- Sharing information with the public health community / public
- Sharing information with other authorities
- Temporary recommendations in relation to a PHEIC

Sharing information with affected countries (Art 9.2)

States Parties shall inform WHO within 24 hour of receipt of evidence of a public health risk identified outside their territory that may cause international disease spread, as manifested by exported or imported:

- *Human cases*
- *Vectors which carry infection or contamination; or*
- *Goods that are contaminated*

WHO informed and transfer as much information as possible to NFP

Confirmed Yellow fever case in Côte d'Ivoire ex Angola

Dear [Redacted],

We would like to inform you that a confirmed case of yellow fever has been reported in Côte d'Ivoire in a 35-year-old male who traveled to Angola between 27 March and 2 April 2023. Investigation in Côte d'Ivoire suggests possible contamination in Luanda. The date of onset of symptoms is 4 April 2023, two days after his return from Angola, with malaise, headache, nausea, joint and muscle pain, without signs of jaundice or bleeding. Dengue fever was suspected, and the blood sample taken on 6 April was PCR positive at the Institut Pasteur in Dakar.

- Departure for Angola: 27 March 2023
- Itinerary: Abidjan, Accra, Dubai, Luanda
- Places visited in Luanda: Airport, Thompson Hotel, Metropolis Building
- Return from Angola 2 April 2023
- Return itinerary : Luanda, Dubai, Accra, Abidjan

We are sharing this information with you to explore whether it is possible to obtain information about the yellow fever situation in Luanda (and Angola) in general that may be related to this case, and to take steps to strengthen yellow fever surveillance. Additional requests may be made by colleagues copied on this communication.

Best regards,

Alerting Member States - EIS

- EIS: secure website developed by WHO to facilitate communications with the National IHR Focal Points (NFPs) as part of the implementation of the IHR
- Information is provided by WHO to NFPs in confidence as specified in Article 11.1 of the IHR
- Information provided
 - IHR criteria assessment
 - Situation update
 - Public Health Response
 - WHO Risk Assessment
 - WHO Advice/Recommendations
 - Links for more information
- Compiled by technical experts across 3 levels of WHO
- Sent to NFP for consultation (an accuracy check)



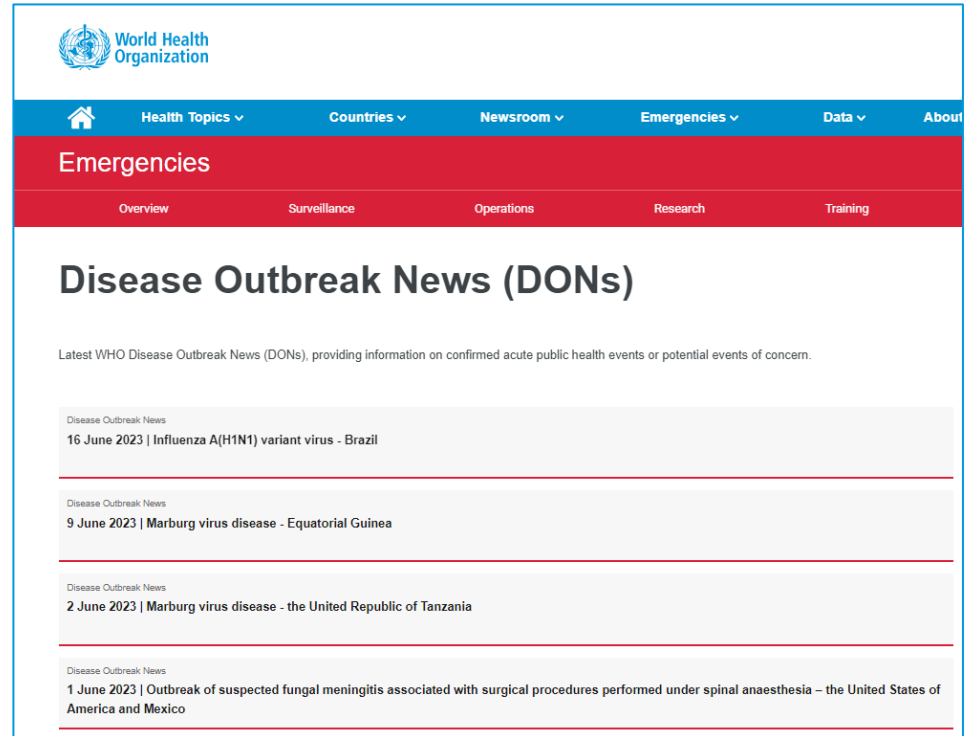
A screenshot of the WHO Event Information Site for IHR National Focal Points. The page has a blue header with the WHO logo and the text "World Health Organization" and "Event Information Site for IHR National Focal Points". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, Events, Announcements, Region, Contacts, IHR Documents, Reports, Editor, Help, and Contact Form. A search bar is located below the navigation menu. The main content area features a "View" button and a "Latest Announcements" section. The "Latest Announcements" section includes a link to "China | Influenza due to..." with a date of "2021-01-04 | Event Update 2021-01-04". The text below the link states: "On 17 December 2020, the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China notified WHO of human infection with a Eurasian avian-like swine influenza A(H1N1)v virus." Below this text is a "Details of the case:" section, which states: "The case is an 11-month-old male resident of Guangdong Province, China. He developed mild symptoms on 16 November 2020. There was no" (text is partially cut off). To the right of the main content area is a "Latest Announcements" sidebar with four entries: "2021-01-15 - Poliomyelitis (Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus and Wild...", "2021-01-15 - Statement on the sixth meeting of the International Health...", "2021-01-09 - Additional health measures in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak", and "2021-01-08 - Poliomyelitis (Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus and Wild...".

<https://extranet.who.int/ihr/eventinformation/>

WHO shall send to all States Parties [...] as soon as possible [...] such public health information [...] which is necessary to enable States Parties to respond to a public health risk

Alerting the public - DON

- WHO's main communications product for the public on acute public health events > 25 years
- Contents
 - Situation at a glance
 - Description of the outbreak
 - Epidemiology of the disease
 - Public health response
 - WHO risk assessment
 - WHO advice
 - Further information links
- Multi-stage production & clearance process of technical experts across all 3 levels of the organization – approx. 10-50 individuals



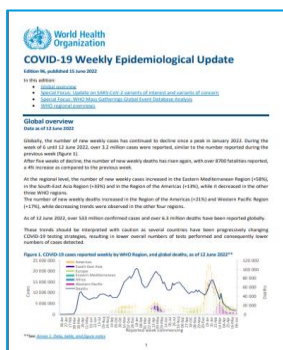
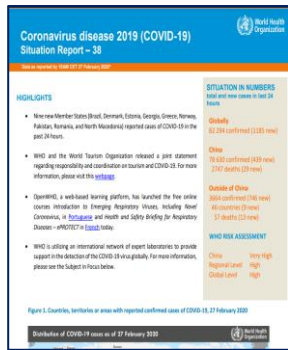
The screenshot shows the WHO website's 'Emergencies' section. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Health Topics', 'Countries', 'Newsroom', 'Emergencies', 'Data', and 'About'. Below this is a red 'Emergencies' header with sub-links for 'Overview', 'Surveillance', 'Operations', 'Research', and 'Training'. The main content area is titled 'Disease Outbreak News (DONs)' and includes a sub-header: 'Latest WHO Disease Outbreak News (DONs), providing information on confirmed acute public health events or potential events of concern.' Below this are four news items, each with a date and location:

- 16 June 2023 | Influenza A(H1N1) variant virus - Brazil
- 9 June 2023 | Marburg virus disease - Equatorial Guinea
- 2 June 2023 | Marburg virus disease - the United Republic of Tanzania
- 1 June 2023 | Outbreak of suspected fungal meningitis associated with surgical procedures performed under spinal anaesthesia – the United States of America and Mexico

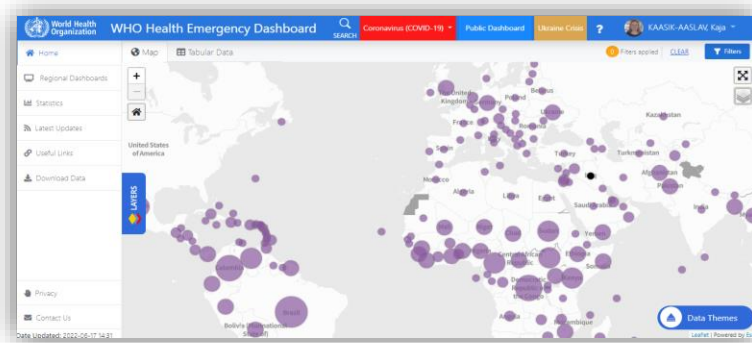
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news>

Other information dissemination for early warning

WHO Global SitReps



Emergency Dashboard



<https://extranet.who.int/publicemergency>



Food Safety Events



Events at Human-Animal-Ecosystem

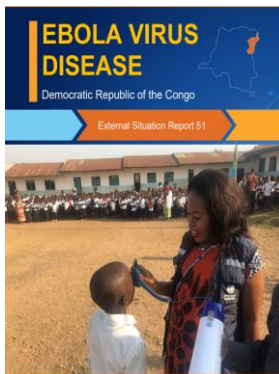
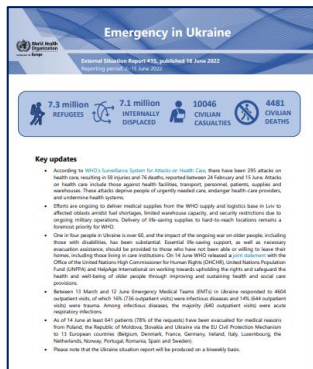


THE JOINT FAO-OIE-WHO GLOBAL EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR HEALTH THREATS AND EMERGING RISKS AT THE HUMAN-ANIMAL-ECOSYSTEMS INTERFACE

Medical Product Alerts

<https://www.who.int/teams/regulation-prequalification/incidents-and-SF/full-list-of-who-medical-product-alerts>

WHO Regional SitReps



Event Specific Dashboards



<https://covid19.who.int/>



Summary

- **WHO Public Health Intelligence activities** – WHO shall collect information regarding events through its surveillance activities and assess their potential to cause international disease spread and possible interference with international traffic. (Art 5.4)
- **Notification** of all events which may constitute a public health emergency of international concern (per IHR Annex 2), with follow-up of relevant information (Art 6)
- **Consultations** with WHO on non-notifiable events (Art 8)
- **Reporting** of public health risks in other countries (Art 9.2)
- **Verification** and provision of available information on events if requested by WHO, with follow-up of information (Arts 9.1, 10)
- **Access to event information** disseminated by WHO through its secure Event Information Site (Article 11)

Thank you

For more information, please contact:

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