

International Health Regulations (IHR)

Protecting people every day

What are the IHR?

The International Health Regulations (IHR) represent an agreement between 196 countries, including all WHO Member States, to work together for global health security. Under the IHR, all countries must report events of international public health importance.



We share a responsibility to protect our world from outbreaks of infectious diseases and other health threats. The goal of the IHR is to stop events in their tracks before they become international emergencies.

Source: Report to the Director-General of the Review Committee on Second Extensions for Establishing National Public Health Capacities and on IHR Implementation, November 2014