
International Health Regulations 2005

Global Public Health Security in the 21st Century

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What we will cover

- **Revise background and focus of International Health Regulations 2005 (IHR)**
- **Explain the significance of IHR to global public health security**
- **Update on the WHO transportation expert group work**
- **Practical issues on implementation of IHR relating to PHA's and LA's**

Global Health Security

Highly mobile, interdependent, interconnected world

- **2.1 billion airline passengers**
- **Enormous tonnages of internationally traded cargo via ships**

Myriad opportunities for rapid spread of infectious diseases

- **Spread is much faster, outbreaks and epidemics only a few hours away**
- **Since 1970's, newly emerging diseases identified at an unprecedented rate of 1+ per year**
- **40 diseases present unknown a generation ago**
- **Antimicrobial resistance**

Radionuclear and toxic threats

- **Accidental and deliberate/malicious**
- **Heat waves, floods, earthquakes**

Threats to public health security

- **Absence of outbreaks leads to a false sense of security and inadequate investment.**
- **Reduced vigilance and relaxation of preventative programmes**
- **Inadequate surveillance**
- **Unsubstantiated scares over the safety of medicines**
- **Conflicts**
- **Microbial adaption**
- **Vector-borne diseases, malaria, dengue fever, HIV/AIDS, poliomyelitis, cholera, viral haemorrhagic fevers, Nipah virus, BSE, radiological diseases, toxic materials in food and water.**

International Health Regulations 2005

- **International legal instrument to achieve maximum security against the international spread of diseases**
- **Aim to reduce the international impact of public health emergencies**
- **Collective defence against:**
 - emerging and epidemic-prone diseases**
 - chemical or radionuclear events**
 - outbreaks of foodborne disease**
 - natural disasters**
 - accidental or deliberate**

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Departures and Arrivals

- **Passive barriers at borders**
- **Early detection of events**
- **Arrest at source before international threat exists**

Am I bovvered?

- **We're all rightaren't we?**
- **UK is a foremost world trading nation underpinned by movement of people and goods**
- **Success and advantage depends upon smooth operation of international links**
- **We're good at this.....aren't we?**

Are you sure?

- **Disease situation is far from stable**
- **Incursion into previously uninhabited areas**
- **Failure of mainstay antimicrobials and their misuse**
- **Globalization of marketing and distribution**
- **Real time news allows panic to spread**

- **We are vulnerable.....believe it**

Vulnerability is universal

- **Are we in danger?..... Yes we are.**
- **So is the international community, some more than others**
- **Collective approach is essential**
- **The challenge is.... challenging**

WHO strategic actions to guide IHR implementation

Global partnership

Strengthen national capacity

- **surveillance, prevention, control and response**
- **public health security**

Prevent and respond to international emergencies

- **WHO global alert and response systems**
- **management of specific risks**

Legal issues and monitoring

- **rights, obligations and procedures**
- **study and monitor progress**

We have signed up to:

- **Full and transparent implementation of IHR's**
- **Global co-operation in surveillance, alerts and responses**
- **Sharing of knowledge, technologies and materials**
- **Global responsibility for capacity building**
- **Cross-sector government collaboration**
- **Increased resources for personnel training, surveillance, response networks, laboratory capacity and prevention**

The Challenge for the States

Full participation in Global Health Security

- Transparent and open

Epidemic Alert and Response

- natural occurrences
- accidental release or deliberate use of biological and chemical agents and radionuclear material.....

- that affect health

WHO transportation working group

- **IHR identified as key instrument so high priority given**
- **Guidance and standards for all forms of transport**
- **Requirements at points of entry**
- **Multinational composition**
- **Professionals from transportation industries and 'public health' disciplines.**

Work so far

- **Early goal..... Ship Sanitation Certificates (SCC) 15th June 2007**
- **Interim technical guidance for SSC, Summer 2007**
- **Detailed technical guidance for officials issuing SCC**
- **Guidance for public health capacity at Points of Entry (Requirement Annex 1B, IHR)**
- **Long hours, understanding different positions, language, cultures, encouraging commitment, support**
- **Acceptance of guidance by World Health Assembly on behalf of all signatory states**

Guidance for issue of SCC

- **Common understanding of purpose and scope**
- **Important tool to control risks on international ship voyages**
- **Internationally recognised and accepted**
- **Consultation with IMO, ISF, state experts, shipping industry**
- **Follow up inspections may be required**
- **Doing the inspection and completing the SCC**

Competent authority will need to.....

- **Identify public health risks**
- **Determine control measures**
- **Capture the information**
- **Determine competencies for staff**
- **Establish communications**
- **Plan for routine and unusual events**

Competencies for capacity

Ships are complex

Inspectors will need:

- **Thorough understanding of public health risks and transmission routes**
- **Person to person transmission**
- **Assess public health risks**
- **Identify control measures**
- **Good knowledge of best practices**

SCC inspections

- **Different from 'De-rats'**
- **Much more complex enquiries**
 - food safety controls**
 - ballast water**
 - medical facilities**
 - sewage**
 - potable water**
 - standing water**
 - waste**
 - vector control**

How to inspect

- **Safety first**
- **Are you 'communicating' with the appropriate person**
- **Assess order/flow of inspection**
- **What to inspect**
- **Systems/location approaches**
- **Ask for documentation/certificates of analysis**
- **Physical observation/ measurements**
- **Debrief and check understanding**
- **Complete SCC**

Have confidence

- **You're better off than many other countries**
- **You have expertise and infrastructure**
- **This is new**
- **We are all learning**
- **Not everything will be straightforward**
- **More guidance is imminent**
- **There is no 'SCC police force' as yet**