

## **International Health Regulations (2005)**

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### **1. Definition of Health Regulations:**

The international health regulation is a binding international agreement between the member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) 196 countries have agreed to work together to prevent and respond to public health crises which approved it, as well as the non-member states which notified the WHO director-general of their approval.

This agreement involves a host of internationally recognized public-health measures and procedures, with the aim of preventing the spread of the diseases internationally and combating them.

The IHR help countries to prevent, detect, inform about and respond to public health events in a facilitated manner.

In today's connected world, health security is a global issue. We must all protect ourselves, and each other, from threats like infectious diseases, chemical and radiological events.

Through the IHR, WHO keeps countries informed about public health risks, and works with partners to help countries build capacity to detect, report and respond to public health events.

The countries Came in to force on 2007 and UAE met the IHR core capacity requirements by May2014.

### **2. Fundamental Principles for Applying the Health Regulation**

- Showing full respect for the dignity and rights of the humans, and the individual basic freedoms.
- Adhering to the UN Charter and the WHO Constitution.
- Making a point of implementing them fully for protecting the world's population against the spread of the diseases internationally.
  
- According to the UN Charter and the principles of the international law, the states reserve the sovereign right in terms of setting the legislatures, with supporting the end behind these regulations taken into account.

### **3. National Focal Point for IHR :**

The Ministry of Health, is considered the national communication center overseeing the application of the International Health Regulations in UAE, and the assistant undersecretary for health centers and clinics work as the National focal point (NFP) communicating with the WHO regarding reporting, verifying, consulting and coordinating the health risks posed, and the emergency health events that could spark panic at the national, regional and international level.

### **4. Ten things you need to do to implement the IHR**

1. Know the IHR; purpose, scope, principles and concepts
2. Update national legislation.
3. Recognize shared realities and the need for collective defences
4. Monitor and report on IHR implementation progress
5. Notify, report, consult and inform WHO
6. Understand WHO's role in international event detection, joint assessment and response
7. Participate in the PHEIC determination and WHO recommendations-making processes
8. Strengthen national surveillance and response capacities
9. Increase public health security at ports airports and ground crossings
10. Use and disseminate IHR health documents at points of entry

