

Securing global public health

27 September 2010 - 18 February 2011

International Health Regulations implementation course (IHR i-course)

On-the-job training

2nd course

4 collaborating institutions

- **Georgetown University Law Centre**, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, USA: International Relations and Law
- **Institute Bioforce Développement**, Aid Programmes and Health Logistics, France: Training design
- **University of Pretoria**, School of Health Systems and Public Health, South Africa: Surveillance and Response Systems
- **University of Geneva Medical School**, Institute of Social and Preventive Health, Switzerland: Public Health Management



**World Health
Organization**

> Context

Today's highly mobile, interdependent and interconnected world provides myriad opportunities for the rapid spread of events threatening the health of populations, such as epidemic-prone diseases, food-borne diseases, accidental/deliberate outbreaks, accidental/deliberate release of chemical or radio nuclear agents.

Not only do these events constitute serious public health challenges, but they often have a major impact on the economy, international trade, and even on societal and political stability.

The revised International Health Regulations (IHR) are a unique and new framework to address international coordination to prevent, protect against and provide a public health response to the threat posed by such events.

The novelty of the IHR requirements, which apply to virtually all countries around the world, and the evolving world environment call for a global effort in IHR awareness and specific training. Such training must fill the existing gaps in education programmes that encompass all the necessary disciplines, and should be offered to relevant professionals.

> Course objectives

- Strengthen critical human resources engaged to set-up and manage systems for securing global public health under the IHR implementation framework.
- Develop communication capacities for efficient international collaboration.

> Target audience

Key IHR players:

- Professionals from National IHR Focal Points
- Public health professionals
- Professionals from related public or private sectors: quarantine, agriculture, transport and trade, tourism, education, from national or international organizations.

Each cohort of participants will also include WHO staff from Country Offices and Regional Offices.

> Operational objectives in brief

From their work stations, participants will be able to:

- **Inform relevant stakeholders** on the scope of the IHR
- **Communicate with WHO** as set out in the IHR
- **Collect, analyze and disseminate** critical public health information
- **Lead or interact with staff** responsible for carrying out risk assessment
- **Lead or interact with sectors/staff** engaged in the strengthening/acquisition of core public health capacities
- **Trigger appropriate legislative, regulatory, and organizational reforms**
- **Plan, coordinate, monitor and assess** IHR implementation
- **Manage an emergency situation effectively**
- **Assess national vulnerability** in health systems for effective IHR implementation
- **Assess all actions** in light of other areas of international law
- **Train relevant professionals** in IHR implementation

> On-the-job training

The IHR i-course is compatible with a relevant professional activity and the course contents will be anchored in the professional context of each participant.

Mode of delivery and instructional techniques

210 hours of content delivered through blended learning over a 5-month period, including:

- 10 weeks distance-learning with tutoring (27 September to 3 December 2010) – 100 hours
- 8 weeks break for individual projects (6 December 2010 to 28 January 2011) – 30 hours
- 2 weeks face-to-face regrouping session (Annecy, France, 31 January to 11 February 2011) – 70 hours
- 1 week distance-learning with tutoring (14 to 18 February 2011) – 10 hours

Depending on the delivery mode, different instructional techniques will be combined, such as:

- Online interactive conferences
- Individual projects
- Discussion forum facilitated by tutors
- Case studies with presentation of findings
- Simulation exercises, etc.

The 1st IHR i-course (22 March - 30 July 2010) is currently being delivered to 37 participants from 32 countries in the six WHO regions, all professionals working in the areas of communicable diseases, laboratory diagnostics and capacity building, as well as policy analysts, university professors, lawyers...



> Contents

Module 1: Surveillance and Response Systems

- Management of emergencies
- Health risk assessment
- IHR core capacities

Module 2: Health Management

- Health systems
- Planning, monitoring, evaluating
- Communication
- Information management
- Training design

Module 3: International Relations and Law

- International Health Regulations
- International organizations and networks
- National IHR Focal Point
- Human rights
- National legislation

> Evaluation

Reaction level evaluations will measure the participant's satisfaction on different aspects of the course (learning objectives, most helpful/least helpful learning activities, tutors' performance, theory/practice balance, documentation and reference materials).

Learning level evaluations will measure changes in knowledge, skills and attitudes during the course. Learning level evaluations will be carried out on a continuous basis using different ways and tools: ongoing self-assessment, ongoing evaluation, and participant's portfolio.

A WHO Certificate of Competencies will be delivered to successful trainees.

The collaborating universities will accept the IHR implementation course as credit towards their Master of Public Health or Master of International Law programmes.

After completion of the course, two additional evaluations will be carried out:

Behavior level evaluations will measure resulting behavior changes (how what the participants have gained from the course is applied on the job). This evaluation will be carried out six months after the completion of the course.

Results level evaluations will aim to identify how such a training programme may positively affect the systems contributing to the implementation of IHR in the participating countries.

The IHR i-course - What's in it for me?

- This course will help you to implement the IHR in your daily work
- You will be part of a network of IHR professionals that share practical experiences and solutions in the face of today's public health challenges
- You will be better prepared to effectively manage a public health emergency in your country / region

What's in it for my institution?

With specialized training in IHR implementation you will be able to:

- Train other professionals in your institution
- Strengthen your institution's capacity to coordinate the response to a public health emergency

Apply now! Go to:

<http://www.who.int/ihr/training/ihrcourse/request-form/en/index.html>

> Prerequisites

Applications of candidates from all WHO member states will be considered based on the following:

- Current position (priority will be given to professionals engaged in the management of projects/systems directly contributing to the implementation of IHR).
- Combination of relevant educational background and professional experience (e.g.: more than five years experience in a relevant area of work) and an advanced university degree: master, doctorate, PhD in relevant areas such as medicine, microbiology, public health, environmental health, health economics and administration, law. Less experienced applicants and lower degrees would be also considered on a case by case basis.
- Good organizational skills and ability to work independently.
- Proven computer skills.
- **Advanced English expression and comprehension skills** (ability to engage freely in discussions, read and write complex material).

> Selection process

Interested candidates are invited to:

1. Go to:
<http://www.who.int/ihr/training/ihr/course/request-form/en/index.html>, download, complete and submit an «Application form».
2. Candidates will then receive by e-mail information on how to take an online preliminary test (in English). In addition, they must send by e-mail the following documents:
 - Detailed CV.
 - Cover letter including description of candidate's expectations from the course and funding sources.
 - Letter of employer/supervisor recommending the candidate.

Applications are now open through 18 June 2010.

All applications will be examined, telephone interviews will be organized with pre-selected candidates.



> Course fees

- **Course fee:** 5000USD per participant. Fees include accommodation and meals as well as instructional costs. Transportation costs are excluded.
- **Accommodation and meals:** The face-to-face session will take place at The Fondation Merieux Conference Center Les Pensières, Veyrier-du-Lac

(near Annecy), France. Accommodation and meals will be provided at the Conference Center.

- **Means of payment:** The course fee must be paid to WHO upon registration. Detailed instructions will be communicated to selected participants.

World Health Organization

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