



In 2014,
600 port health officers accessed
WHO's training courses on points of entry



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International Health Regulations

Ports, Airports and Ground Crossings

While international transport, travel and trade contribute to economic development and welfare of populations, they may also pose public health risks. Today's high traffic at airports, ports and ground crossings – points of entry, can play a key role in the international spread of diseases through persons, conveyances and goods.

The International Health Regulations (2005) provide a public health framework in the form of obligations and recommendations that enable countries to better prevent, prepare for and respond to public health events and emergencies.

Under the IHR, Member States are requested to maintain effective standing public health measures and response capacity at designated airports, ports and ground crossings, in order to

- protect the health of travellers and populations;
- keep ports, airports and ground crossings running as well as ships, aircrafts and ground transportation travelling in a sanitary condition;
- contain risks at source, respond to emergencies and implement public health recommendations, limiting unnecessary health-based restrictions on international traffic and trade.



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WHO assists Member States in building and strengthening core capacities at points of entry

Preparing

Following a multisectoral approach, WHO supports Member States in putting into action event management and preparedness plans at points of entry. Additionally, WHO facilitates the implementation of appropriate measures in response to public health risks that do not impose unwarranted restrictions on travel and trade.

Guiding

WHO produces, updates, and disseminates technical guidance and training tools to support Member States in developing competencies to fulfill their IHR requirements at points of entry. Furthermore, a country that has fulfilled these requirements can, on a voluntary basis, request WHO to certify its ports and airport capacity.

Networking

WHO fosters intersectoral collaboration for strengthening harmonization of practices and information sharing. To pursue this objective, WHO established two collaborating centres and PAGnet, a web-based network that brings together port health officials and key partners to coordinate activities at ports, airports and ground crossings (PAG).

