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Panel on International Health Regulations

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Why IHRs at GLBHI?

The IHRs represent a major development in the use of international law for public health purposes.

A key element of the IHRs is the establishment of a global surveillance system for the sharing of information to address public health emergencies of international concern.

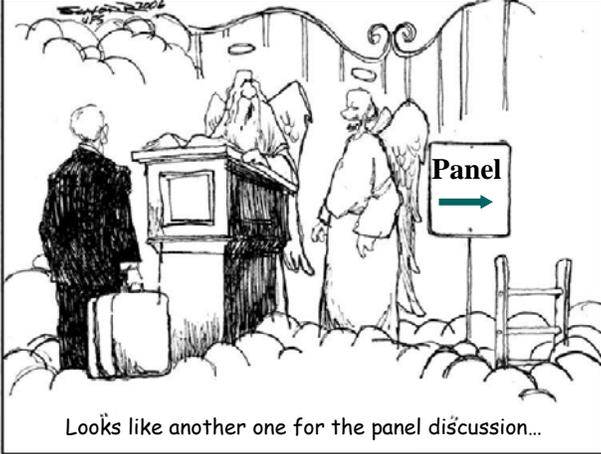
Changes to information sharing practices, both before and during a public health emergency, will be required.

It is important to understand the current technical, resource, governance, and legal environments ---both at the federal and state/province levels---to determine how best to meet this new commitment.

WHO ability to issue unilateral travel advisories based on IHRs.

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Why a panel discussion?



Looks like another one for the panel discussion...

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World Health Organization

Old International Health Regulations (IHR)

- Notification of cases**
- Health-related rules for international trade and travel**
- Health organization**
(The health measures called for are the maximum measures that a state may apply for the protection of its territory against cholera, plague and yellow fever.)
- Health documents required** (health and vaccination certificates for travellers from infected to non-infected areas; health declarations- Maritime Declaration of Health; Aircraft General Declaration.)

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New International Health Regulations (2005)

Updating existing measures of the current IHR

Real time event management system

National core surveillance capacities

Notification of potential public health emergencies of international concern

- Is the public health impact of the event serious?
- Is the event unusual or unexpected?
- Is there a significant risk of international spread?
- Is there a significant risk of international restriction(s) to travel and trade?

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Expectations of member states:

1. to build, strengthen and maintain the capacities required by IHR;
2. to collaborate actively with each other and WHO to ensure their effective implementation;
3. to provide support to developing countries in the building, strengthening and maintenance of required public health capacities for the IHRs
4. to take all appropriate measures for furthering the purpose and eventual implementation of the IHRs, including development of the necessary public health capacities and legal and administrative provisions, including the process for introducing use of the decision instrument (Annex 2);

Questions to the panel:

1. Progress on the IHRs will be closely monitored by the WHO, including an annual report on IHR compliance and implementation. Is this enough?
2. What steps have been taken to verify that information needed by Canada and the United States from states and provinces will be provided in a timely manner?
3. Are new legal powers needed to effectively meet the new IHRs?
4. What are the risks --- both nationally and globally --- if this new international system is not in place in 5 years?
5. Are public health capacities in developing countries the "weakest link"?

Reference websites:

www.who.int/csr/ihr/en/

www.searo.who.int/en/Section10/Section369_9695.htm

www2a.cdc.gov/php/index.asp

www.publichealthpolicy.org/

www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cepr-cmiu/ihr_e.html

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Panel presentation/discussion:

15 minutes (including any questions by panel)

Followed by audience questions/discussion

Please provide name/affiliation, indicate to which panel member(s) your question is directed and be brief.

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