

Table III
Selected key definitions in the IHR (2005) (Art. 1.1 of the IHR (2005))

Definitions	Content
affected	means persons, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods, postal parcels or human remains that are infected or contaminated, or carry sources of infection or contamination, so as to constitute a public health risk;
affected area	means a geographical location specifically for which health measures have been recommended by WHO under these Regulations;
arrival of a conveyance	(a) in the case of a seagoing vessel, arrival or anchoring in the defined area of a port; (b) in the case of an aircraft, arrival at an airport; (c) in the case of an inland navigation vessel on an international voyage, arrival at a point of entry; (d) in the case of a train or road vehicle, arrival at a point of entry;
baggage	means the personal effects of a traveller;
cargo	means goods carried on a conveyance or in a container;
competent authority	means an authority responsible for the implementation and application of health measures under these Regulations;
contamination	means the presence of an infectious or toxic agent or matter on a human or animal body surface, in or on a product prepared for consumption or on other inanimate objects, including conveyances, that may constitute a public health risk;
conveyance	means an aircraft, ship, train, road vehicle or other means of transport on an international voyage;
conveyance operator	means a natural or legal person in charge of a conveyance or their agent;
crew	means persons on board a conveyance who are not passengers;
decontamination	means a procedure whereby health measures are taken to eliminate an infectious or toxic agent or matter on a human or animal body surface, in or on a product prepared for consumption or on other inanimate objects, including conveyances, that may constitute a public health risk;

deratting	means the procedure whereby health measures are taken to control or kill rodent vectors of human disease present in baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, facilities, goods and postal parcels at the point of entry;
departure	means, for persons, baggage, cargo, conveyances or goods, the act of leaving a territory;
disease	means an illness or medical condition, irrespective of origin or source, that presents or could present significant harm to humans;
disinfection	means the procedure whereby health measures are taken to control or kill infectious agents on a human or animal body surface or in or on baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods and postal parcels by direct exposure to chemical or physical agents;
disinsection	means the procedure whereby health measures are taken to control or kill the insect vectors of human diseases present in baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods and postal parcels;
event	means a manifestation of disease or an occurrence that creates a potential for disease;
<i>free pratique</i>	means permission for a ship to enter a port, embark or disembark, discharge or load cargo or stores; permission for an aircraft, after landing, to embark or disembark, discharge or load cargo or stores; and permission for a ground transport vehicle, upon arrival, to embark or disembark, discharge or load cargo or stores;
goods	mean tangible products, including animals and plants, transported on an international voyage, including for utilization on board a conveyance;
ground crossing	means a point of land entry in a State Party, including one utilized by road vehicles and trains;
ground transport vehicle	means a motorized conveyance for overland transport on an international voyage, including trains, coaches, lorries and automobiles;
health measure	means procedures applied to prevent the spread of disease or contamination; a health measure does not include law enforcement or security measures;
ill person	means an individual suffering from or affected with a physical ailment that may pose a public health risk;
infection	means the entry and development or multiplication of an infectious agent in the body of humans and animals that may constitute a public health risk;

inspection	means the examination, by the competent authority or under its supervision, of areas, baggage, containers, conveyances, facilities, goods or postal parcels, including relevant data and documentation, to determine if a public health risk exists;
international traffic	means the movement of persons, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods or postal parcels across an international border, including international trade;
international voyage	(a) in the case of a conveyance, a voyage between points of entry in the territories of more than one State, or a voyage between points of entry in the territory or territories of the same State if the conveyance has contacts with the territory of any other State on its voyage but only as regards those contacts; (b) in the case of a traveller, a voyage involving entry into the territory of a State other than the territory of the State in which that traveller commences the voyage;
intrusive	means possibly provoking discomfort through close or intimate contact or questioning;
invasive	means the puncture or incision of the skin or insertion of an instrument or foreign material into the body or the examination of a body cavity. For the purposes of these Regulations, medical examination of the ear, nose and mouth, temperature assessment using an ear, oral or cutaneous thermometer, or thermal imaging; medical inspection; auscultation; external palpation; retinoscopy; external collection of urine, faeces or saliva samples; external measurement of blood pressure; and electrocardiography shall be considered to be non-invasive;
isolation	means separation of ill or contaminated persons or affected baggage, containers, conveyances, goods or postal parcels from others in such a manner as to prevent the spread of infection or contamination;
medical examination	means the preliminary assessment of a person by an authorized health worker or by a person under the direct supervision of the competent authority, to determine the person's health status and potential public health risk to others, and may include the scrutiny of health documents, and a physical examination when justified by the circumstances of the individual case;
National IHR Focal Point	means the national centre, designated by each State Party, which shall be accessible at all times for communications with WHO IHR Contact Points under these Regulations;
personal data	means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person;

point of entry	means a passage for international entry or exit of travellers, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods and postal parcels as well as agencies and areas providing services to them on entry or exit;
port	means a seaport or a port on an inland body of water where ships on an international voyage arrive or depart;
postal parcel	means an addressed article or package carried internationally by postal or courier services;
public health emergency of international concern	means an extraordinary event which is determined, as provided in these Regulations: (i) to constitute a public health risk to other States through the international spread of diseases and (ii) to potentially require a coordinated international response;
public health observation	means the monitoring of the health status of a traveller over time for the purpose of determining the risk of disease transmission;
public health risk	means a likelihood of an event that may affect adversely the health of human populations, with an emphasis on one which may spread internationally or may present a serious and direct danger;
quarantine	means the restriction of activities and/or separation from others of suspect persons who are not ill or of suspect baggage, containers, conveyances or goods in such a manner as to prevent the possible spread of infection or contamination;
reservoir	means an animal, plant or substance in which an infectious agent normally lives and whose presence may constitute a public health risk;
road vehicle	means a ground transport vehicle other than a train;
scientific evidence	means information furnishing a level of proof based on the established and accepted methods of science;
scientific principles	means the accepted fundamental laws and facts of nature known through the methods of science;
standing recommendation	means non-binding advice issued by WHO for specific ongoing public health risks pursuant to Article 16 regarding appropriate health measures for routine or periodic application needed to prevent or reduce the international spread of disease and minimize interference with international traffic;

surveillance	means the systematic ongoing collection, collation and analysis of data for public health purposes and the timely dissemination of public health information for assessment and public health response as necessary;
suspect	means those persons, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods or postal parcels considered by a State Party as having been exposed, or possibly exposed, to a public health risk and that could be a possible source of spread of disease;
temporary recommendation	means non-binding advice issued by WHO pursuant to Article 15 for application on a time-limited, risk-specific basis, in response to a public health emergency of international concern, so as to prevent or reduce the international spread of disease and minimize interference with international traffic;
temporary residence	has the meaning as determined in the national law of the State Party concerned;
traveller	means a natural person undertaking an international voyage;
vector	means an insect or other animal which normally transports an infectious agent that constitutes a public health risk;
verification	means the provision of information by a State Party to WHO confirming the status of an event within the territory or territories of that State Party;
WHO IHR Contact Point	means the unit within WHO which shall be accessible at all times for communications with the National IHR Focal Point