Under the International Health Regulations (2005), WHO Member States committed themselves to building the core capacities for the detection, assessment, notification and response to public health emergencies of international concern. In order for countries to meet the IHR core capacity requirements, it is critical

- to increase the mass of professionals who share a common approach to the application of the IHR framework,
- that IHR-specific issues are consistently and sustainably integrated into the existing and future learning programs of the relevant professionals,
- that countries are empowered to take ownership of learning on IHR issues, adapting approaches and materials based on their respective national contexts.

WHO is setting-up a comprehensive approach to learning on “Health Security under the IHR framework” geared at both individual and institutional levels. This approach relies on a “virtual learning environment” providing Member States with methods and tools that can be used in preparing current and upcoming generations of public health leaders and professionals across a variety of sectors.
WHO helps Member States to enhance the knowledge and skills of public health professionals

Guiding
WHO develops concepts, processes and tools to guide Member States in the design and implementation of effective human resources learning strategies and plans. Furthermore, WHO supports countries in the development of innovative approaches for the identification of learning needs and the evaluation of learning programmes.

Training
To assist national public health professionals and institutions, WHO produces training materials on the IHR framework and directly related topics. In addition, WHO also prepares comprehensive IHR training toolkits. Finally, WHO facilitates the adaption of the IHR training courses to the specific needs of regions and countries.

Sharing
WHO hosts an online platform to support the learning needs of the main actors involved in the implementation of the IHR. The platform provides access to documents, forums, training packages and webinars. The ultimate goal of the platform is to create a global, online community of practice for continuous, collective and certified learning.

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