Adopted by all WHO Member States, the International Health Regulations (2005) define the rights and obligations of countries to report public health events of international concern, including:

- notification to WHO of public health risks;
- rules on health measures for international travellers, trade and transportation;
- requirements for sanitary conditions at ports, airports and ground crossings;
- development of minimum capacities for surveillance, assessment, response and reporting for a broad range of health risks.

Member States need an appropriate legal framework to support and enable the efficient implementation of these regulations. Assessing and potentially revising or adopting new legislation in this context, while important, can be a complex and challenging task.

Since the entry into force of the Regulations in 2007, WHO has been supporting Member States in their efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Regulations into national legislation. Furthermore, WHO has been providing advice and guidance concerning the practical implementation of the Regulations.
WHO supports States Parties with IHR implementation in national legislation by providing guidance and advice

Guidance
WHO has released general guidance to illustrate in a simple and concise manner the key elements and processes of IHR implementation in national legislation.


Toolkit
To facilitate the integration of the IHR requirements into national legislation, WHO has developed a toolkit for States Parties. This toolkit provides approaches and examples of IHR implementation around the world.


Other resources
WHO has produced other instruments to support States Parties, including a country action plan for the legislative assessment of the IHR implementation. Currently, WHO is in the process of updating existing guidance on IHR implementation in national legislation based on lessons learned since the entry into force of the Regulations.