

Securing global public health

22 March - 30 July 2010

**International Health  
Regulations  
implementation course  
(IHR i-course)**

On-the-job training

**3 universities,  
3 poles of expertise**

- **Georgetown University Law Center**, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, USA: International Relations and Law
- **University of Pretoria**, School of Health Systems and Public Health, South Africa: Surveillance Early Warning and Response Systems
- **University of Geneva Medical School**, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, Switzerland: Public Health Management



**World Health  
Organization**

## > Context

Today's highly mobile, interdependent and interconnected world provides myriad opportunities for the rapid spread of events threatening the health of populations, such as epidemic-prone diseases, food-borne diseases, accidental/deliberate outbreaks, accidental release of chemical or radio nuclear agents, or deliberate release.

Not only do these events constitute serious public health challenges, but they often have a major impact on the economy, international trade, and even on societal and political stability.

The International Health Regulations (IHR) are a unique and new framework to address international coordination to prevent, protect against and provide a public health response to the threat posed by such events.

The novelty of the IHR requirements, which apply to virtually all countries around the world, and the evolving world environment call for a global effort in IHR awareness and specific training. Such training must fill the existing gaps in education programmes that encompass all the necessary disciplines, and should be offered to relevant professionals.

## > Course objectives

- Strengthen critical human resources engaged to set-up and manage systems for securing global public health under the IHR implementation framework.
- Develop communication capacities for efficient international collaboration.

## > Target audience

### Key IHR players:

- Professionals from National IHR Focal Points
- Public health professionals
- Professionals from related public or private sectors: quarantine, agriculture, transport and trade, tourism, education, from national or international organizations.

Each cohort of participants will also include WHO staff from Country Offices and Regional Offices.

## > Operational objectives in brief

*From their work stations, participants will enhance their skills to:*

- **Inform relevant stakeholders** on the scope of the IHR
- **Communicate with WHO** as set out in the IHR
- **Collect, analyze and disseminate** critical public health information
- **Lead or interact with staff** responsible for carrying out risk assessment
- **Lead or interact with sectors/staff** engaged in the strengthening/acquisition of core public health capacities
- **Trigger appropriate legislative, regulatory, and organizational reforms**
- **Plan, coordinate, monitor and assess** IHR implementation
- **Manage an emergency situation effectively**
- **Assess national vulnerability** in health systems for effective IHR implementation
- **Assess all actions** in light of other areas of international law
- **Train relevant professionals** in IHR implementation

## > On-the-job training

The IHR i-course is compatible with professional activity and the course contents will be anchored in the professional context of each participant.

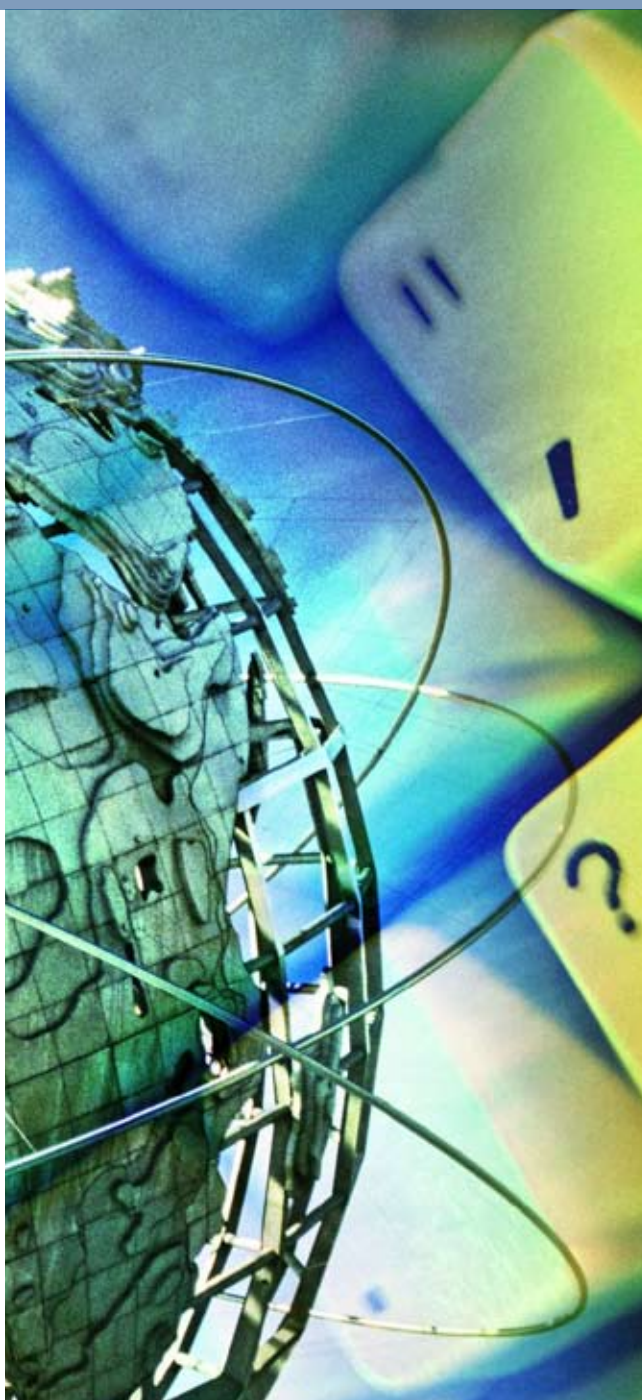
### Mode of delivery and instructional techniques

*210 hours of content delivered through blended learning over a 4-month period, including:*

- 10 weeks distance-learning with tutoring (22 March to 28 May 2010) – 100 hours
- 6 weeks break for individual projects (31 May to 9 July 2010) – 30 hours
- 2 weeks face-to-face regrouping session (Les Pensières - Annecy, France, 12 to 23 July 2010) – 70 hours
- 1 week distance-learning with tutoring (26 to 30 July 2010) – 10 hours

**Depending on the delivery mode, different instructional techniques will be combined, such as:**

- Online interactive conferences
- Research projects
- Discussion forum facilitated by tutors
- Case studies with presentation of findings
- Simulations, exercises, etc.



## > Evaluation

- Evaluation of skills and knowledge gained from the course will be carried out on a continuous basis
- Evaluation to ensure that the trainee is able to fully satisfy the requirements of each module
- Evaluation of the trainee's final report on operational research/project.

### **A WHO Certificate will be delivered to successful trainees.**

*The collaborating universities will accept the IHR implementation course as credits towards their Master of Public Health or Master of Law programmes.*

## > Contents

### *Module 1: Surveillance Early Warning and Response Systems*

- Management of emergencies
- Health risk management
- IHR core capacities

### *Module 2: Health Management*

- Health systems
- Planning, monitoring, evaluating
- Communication
- Information management
- Instructional design

### *Module 3: International Relations and Law*

- International Health Regulations
- International organizations and networks
- National IHR Focal Point
- Human rights
- National legislation

### **The IHR i-course - What's in it for me?**

- This course will help you to implement the IHR in your daily work
- You will be part of a network of IHR professionals that share practical experience and solutions in the face of today's public health challenges
- You will be better prepared to effectively manage a public health emergency in your country / region

### **What's in it for my institution?**

With specialized training in IHR implementation you will be able to:

- Train other professionals in your institution
- Strengthen your institution's capacity to coordinate the response to a public health emergency

**Apply now!** Send an e-mail to:

[gomezp@who.int](mailto:gomezp@who.int)

**Subject: "REQUEST FOR APPLICATION TO IHR I-COURSE 1"**

## > Prerequisites

Applications of candidates from all WHO member states will be considered based on the following:

- Current position (priority will be given to professionals engaged in the management of projects/systems directly contributing to the implementation of IHR).
- Combination of relevant educational background and professional experience (e.g.: more than five years experience in a relevant area of work) and an advanced university degree: master, doctorate, PhD in relevant areas such as medicine, microbiology, public health, environmental health, health economics and administration, law. Less experienced applicants and lower degrees would be also considered on a case by case basis.
- Advanced level in English (ability to engage freely in discussions, read and write complex material).
- Good organizational skills and ability to work independently.
- Proven computer skills.

## > Selection process

Interested candidates are invited to:

1. Send an e-mail to: [gomezp@who.int](mailto:gomezp@who.int) with: **"REQUEST FOR APPLICATION TO IHR I-COURSE 1"** in the "Subject" line, including the following information: family name, first name, nationality, position, mail address, e-mail address, telephone and fax number, funding (fees for the course paid by...), name and address of employer/organization.
2. Candidates will then receive by return e-mail instructions on how to apply by e-mail, as well as their login information to take an online preliminary test.
3. Candidates must then apply by e-mail sending:
  - detailed CV;
  - cover letter including description of candidate's expectations from the course and funding sources;
  - letter of employer/supervisor recommending the candidate;
  - completed personal information form.
4. Candidates must also take an online English test.

**Applications are now open through 15 December 2009.**

A selection committee will examine all applications and organize telephone interviews with pre-selected candidates in January 2010.



## > Course fees

• **Course fees:** 5 000 USD per participant. Fees include accommodation and meals as well as instructional costs. Transportation costs are excluded.

• **Accommodation and meals:** The face-to-face session will take place at The Fondation Mérieux Conference Center Les Pensières, Annecy, France (60 km from Geneva.) Accommodation and meals will be provided at the Conference Center.

• **Means of payment:** 50% of the course fee must be paid to WHO upon registration. Detailed instructions will be communicated to selected participants.

### World Health Organization

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