

ACCELERATING PROGRESS ON THE GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY (GHS) AGENDA

WHAT IS THE GHS AGENDA?

In partnership with other nations and international organizations, we are committed to accelerate progress toward a world safe and secure from infectious disease threats and to promote global health security as an international priority.

GHS IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

No single country or organization can achieve global health security alone. The U.S. is committed to working in partnership with other nations, international organizations, and civil society to better shield people from the threat of infectious disease. Global health security is a shared responsibility that cannot be achieved by a single actor or sector of government. Success will depend upon collaboration among the health, security and agriculture sectors. We are coordinating closely with the World Health Organization, World Organization for Animal Health, and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to accelerate progress toward achieving the goals of the IHRs and facilitating other GHS measures.

WHY GHS MATTERS

- ▶ In today's increasingly interconnected world we remain vulnerable.
- ▶ GHS means safer nations and more stable economies.
- ▶ Disease threats can spread faster than ever before with increased global travel and trade.
- ▶ The vitality of the global economy is only as secure as the collective health of our people.
 - 11 years ago SARS cost \$30 billion in only 4 months.
 - The anthrax attacks of 2001 infected 22 people, killed 5, and cost more than \$1 billion to clean up.
 - The 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic killed 284,000 people in its first year alone.
 - AIDS spread silently for decades before detection and response causing untold loss.

WHY NOW?

There is worldwide agreement on the importance of global health security. All 194 World Health Organization Member States have adopted the International Health Regulations (IHR). Considerable progress has occurred over the past years as countries were building capacities; however, 80% of countries were not able to meet the IHR capacity required to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to infectious disease threats by the June 2012 deadline set by the WHO. No globally linked, inter-operable system exists to prevent epidemic threats, detect disease outbreaks in real-time, share information and samples, and respond effectively. Despite improved technologies and knowledge, dangerous gaps remain in

the workforce, tools, training, surveillance capabilities, and coordination that are crucial to protect against the spread of infectious disease, whether naturally occurring, deliberate, or accidental. The technology, capacity, and resources exist to make measurable progress, but focused leadership and political will are required to make it happen.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Following the launch, we anticipate a sequence of events to develop commitments, empower leaders to take specific actions by elevating attention to the issue, and measure progress. GHS partner nations will hold focused, coordinated commitment development events in 2014, with the goal of developing additional commitments over the next several months. This first set of commitments will be highlighted and reviewed at a high-level event hosted by the White House in Washington D.C. in Fall 2014.

HOW DOES THIS COMPLEMENT THE IHR AND OTHER GHS-RELATED EFFORTS?

The GHS agenda purposefully does not duplicate other efforts. Instead, it aims to elevate political attention, broaden participation from multi-sectoral stakeholders, and focus commitments, coordination and collaboration in order to protect populations from disease threats and save lives. Commitments made in other contexts that strengthen IHR core capacities and other GHS frameworks, such as the World Organization for Animal Health Animal Health Codes, and the Codex Alimentarius International Food Standards, will be leveraged, multiplied, and replicated. The GHS agenda will also complement existing multilateral efforts in this area, including under the G8, G20, Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, Global Health Security Initiative, and regional forums.

HOW WILL SUCCESS BE DEFINED?

To effectively organize, accelerate, and measure progress in 2014 and over the next 5 years, countries will develop specific actions to strengthen national, regional or global collective ability to prevent, detect or respond to emerging infectious diseases. These collective actions will be led by nations independently or in groups and should include proven actions that can be replicated by others and provide a measurable outcome. Taken together, the effect of these bundled commitments will be an exponential, strategic, measurable increase in effort, accelerating progress towards full IHR compliance and global health security.