

**EXAMPLES FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE DECISION INSTRUMENT FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND NOTIFICATION OF EVENTS THAT MAY CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN**

*The examples appearing in this Annex are not binding and are for indicative guidance purposes to assist in the interpretation of the decision instrument criteria.*

**DOES THE EVENT MEET AT LEAST TWO OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA?**

<b>Is the public health impact of the event serious?</b>	<b>I. Is the public health impact of the event serious?</b>
	1. <i>Is the number of cases and/or number of deaths for this type of event large for the given place, time or population?</i>
	2. <i>Has the event the potential to have a high public health impact?</i> <p>THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF CIRCUMSTANCES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO HIGH PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Event caused by a pathogen with high potential to cause epidemic (infectiousness of the agent, high case fatality, multiple transmission routes or healthy carrier).</li> <li>✓ Indication of treatment failure (new or emerging antibiotic resistance, vaccine failure, antidote resistance or failure).</li> <li>✓ Event represents a significant public health risk even if no or very few human cases have yet been identified.</li> <li>✓ Cases reported among health staff.</li> <li>✓ The population at risk is especially vulnerable (refugees, low level of immunization, children, elderly, low immunity, undernourished, etc.).</li> <li>✓ Concomitant factors that may hinder or delay the public health response (natural catastrophes, armed conflicts, unfavourable weather conditions, multiple foci in the State Party).</li> <li>✓ Event in an area with high population density.</li> <li>✓ Spread of toxic, infectious or otherwise hazardous materials that may be occurring naturally or otherwise that has contaminated or has the potential to contaminate a population and/or a large geographical area.</li> </ul>
	3. <i>Is external assistance needed to detect, investigate, respond and control the current event, or prevent new cases?</i> <p>THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF WHEN ASSISTANCE MAY BE REQUIRED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Inadequate human, financial, material or technical resources – in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– insufficient laboratory or epidemiological capacity to investigate the event (equipment, personnel, financial resources);</li> <li>– insufficient antidotes, drugs and/or vaccine and/or protective equipment, decontamination equipment, or supportive equipment to cover estimated needs;</li> <li>– existing surveillance system is inadequate to detect new cases in a timely manner.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF THE EVENT SERIOUS?</b> <b>Answer “yes” if you have answered “yes” to questions 1, 2 or 3 above.</b>	

<b>Is the event unusual or unexpected?</b>	<b>II. Is the event unusual or unexpected?</b>
	<p>4. <i>Is the event unusual?</i></p> <p>THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF UNUSUAL EVENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The event is caused by an unknown agent or the source, vehicle, route of transmission is unusual or unknown.</li> <li>✓ Evolution of cases more severe than expected (including morbidity or case-fatality) or with unusual symptoms.</li> <li>✓ Occurrence of the event itself unusual for the area, season or population.</li> </ul>
	<p>5. <i>Is the event unexpected from a public health perspective?</i></p> <p>THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF UNEXPECTED EVENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Event caused by a disease/agent that had already been eliminated or eradicated from the State Party or not previously reported.</li> </ul>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IS THE EVENT UNUSUAL OR UNEXPECTED?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Answer “yes” if you have answered “yes” to questions 4 or 5 above.</b></p>

<b>Is there a significant risk of international spread?</b>	<b>III. Is there a significant risk of international spread?</b>
	<p>6. <i>Is there evidence of an epidemiological link to similar events in other States?</i></p>
	<p>7. <i>Is there any factor that should alert us to the potential for cross border movement of the agent, vehicle or host?</i></p> <p>THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAY PREDISPOSE TO INTERNATIONAL SPREAD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Where there is evidence of local spread, an index case (or other linked cases) with a history within the previous month of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– international travel (or time equivalent to the incubation period if the pathogen is known);</li> <li>– participation in an international gathering (pilgrimage, sports event, conference, etc.);</li> <li>– close contact with an international traveller or a highly mobile population.</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Event caused by an environmental contamination that has the potential to spread across international borders.</li> <li>✓ Event in an area of intense international traffic with limited capacity for sanitary control or environmental detection or decontamination.</li> </ul>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IS THERE A SIGNIFICANT RISK OF INTERNATIONAL SPREAD?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Answer “yes” if you have answered “yes” to questions 6 or 7 above.</b></p>

<b>Risk of international restrictions?</b>	<b>IV. Is there a significant risk of international travel or trade restrictions?</b>
	8. <i>Have similar events in the past resulted in international restriction on trade and/or travel?</i>
	9. <i>Is the source suspected or known to be a food product, water or any other goods that might be contaminated that has been exported/imported to/from other States?</i>
	10. <i>Has the event occurred in association with an international gathering or in an area of intense international tourism?</i>
	11. <i>Has the event caused requests for more information by foreign officials or international media?</i>
	<b>IS THERE A SIGNIFICANT RISK OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE OR TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS?</b>  <b>Answer “yes” if you have answered “yes” to questions 8, 9, 10 or 11 above.</b>

States Parties that answer “yes” to the question whether the event meets any two of the four criteria (I-IV) above, shall notify WHO under Article 6 of the International Health Regulations.