



**FRAMEWORK AND TOOLKIT  
FOR INFECTION PREVENTION  
AND CONTROL IN  
OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS,  
READINESS AND RESPONSE  
AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL**



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Framework and toolkit for infection prevention and control in outbreak preparedness, readiness and response at the national level

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ABHR</b>	alcohol-based hand rub
<b>AMR</b>	antimicrobial resistance
<b>CDNA</b>	Communicable Diseases Network Australia
<b>CDC</b>	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<b>COVID-19</b>	coronavirus disease
<b>ECDC</b>	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
<b>EVD</b>	Ebola virus disease
<b>HCF</b>	health care facility
<b>HCW</b>	health care worker
<b>HH</b>	hand hygiene
<b>ICU</b>	intensive care unit
<b>IHM</b>	infectious hazard management
<b>IMS</b>	incidence management system
<b>IPC</b>	infection prevention and control
<b>IPCAF</b>	infection prevention and control assessment framework
<b>IPCAT</b>	infection prevention and control assessment tool
<b>MDRO</b>	multidrug-resistant organisms
<b>MERS-CoV</b>	Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus
<b>MoH</b>	ministry of health
<b>MSF</b>	Médecins Sans Frontières
<b>NGO</b>	non-governmental organization
<b>PAHO</b>	Pan American Health Organization
<b>PPE</b>	personal protective equipment
<b>RCCE</b>	risk communication and community engagement
<b>SARS</b>	severe acute respiratory syndrome
<b>SARS-CoV-2</b>	severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2
<b>SOPs</b>	standard operating procedures
<b>TOR</b>	terms of reference
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
<b>VHF</b>	viral haemorrhagic fever
<b>WASH</b>	water, sanitation and hygiene
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

## GLOSSARY

**Framework:** A framework usually denotes a structure, overview, outline, system or plan consisting of various descriptive categories, for example, concepts, constructs or variables, and the relations between them(1).

**Health care facilities:** Health care facilities encompass all formally recognized facilities that provide health care, including primary (health posts and clinics), secondary and tertiary (district or national hospitals); public and private (including faith-run); and temporary structures designed for emergency contexts (e.g. cholera treatment centres). They may be located in urban or rural areas(2).

**Incident management system:** The standardized structure and approach that WHO has adopted to manage its response to public health events and emergencies, and to ensure that the Organization follows best practice in emergency management. WHO has adopted an Incident Management System comprising six critical functions: Leadership, Partner Coordination, Information and Planning, Health Operations and Technical Expertise, Operations Support and Logistics, and Finance and Administration(3).

**Infection prevention and control (IPC) minimum requirements:** IPC standards that should be in place at both national and health facility level to provide minimum protection and safety to patients, health care workers and visitors, based on the WHO core components for IPC programmes. The existence of these requirements constitutes the initial starting point for building additional critical elements of the IPC core components according to a stepwise approach based on assessments of the local situation(4).

**Multimodal strategy:** A multimodal strategy comprises several elements or components (three or more; implemented in an integrated way with the aim of improving an outcome and changing behavior. It includes tools, such as bundles and checklists, developed by multidisciplinary teams that take into account local conditions(4).

**Outbreak:** An outbreak can be described as a group of cases that are linked by both time and place. These disease cases are usually suspected to come from a common source of infection. They can be:

- a greater than expected incidence of infection compared with the usual background rate for the particular facility or ward;
- a single case for certain rare or epidemic-prone diseases; or
- a suspected, anticipated or actual event involving microbial contamination of food or water (e.g. sink drains, water reservoirs)(5).

**Preparedness phase:** The development of public health emergency response plans for relevant hazards; this includes mapping of potential hazards and hazard sites, the identification of available resources, the development of appropriate national stockpiles of resources, and the capacity to support operations at the intermediate and community/primary response levels during a public health emergency. These activities may take 6 months to 2 years in order to be fully prepared for an emerging infectious disease and/or public health threat(4).

**Personal protective equipment:** Equipment used to prevent or minimize exposure to hazards, such as biological hazards, chemical hazards, radiological hazards, electrical hazards, mechanical hazards, etc(6).

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