Framework for a Public Health Emergency Operations Centre

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http://www.who.int/ihr/eoc net/en/index7.html

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Use of the document

The Framework for a public health emergency operations centre (PHEOC framework) document is intended to be used by practitioners of public health; health policy makers; and authorities and agencies responsible for managing emergencies, incidents, or events where the health of populations is at risk. This document provides high-level methodical guidance for designing, developing, and strengthening of public health emergency operations centres.

Executive summary

An emergency operations centre (EOC) is a physical location for the coordination of information and resources to support incident management activities. Such a centre may be a temporary facility, or may be established in a permanent location.

This document outlines the key concepts and essential requirements for developing and managing a public health emergency operations centre (PHEOC). It provides an outline for developing and managing a PHEOC in order to achieve a goal-oriented response to public health emergencies and unity of effort among response agencies.

Concept of the PHEOC

A PHEOC integrates traditional public health services into an emergency management model. It supports and is a component of existing national disaster management authorities or entities.

The PHEOC, as a public health oriented EOC, must be part of a comprehensive programme of public health emergency preparedness, planning and capacity building. Such a programme includes, but is not limited to:

- 1. Prevention and mitigation of hazards¹
- 2. Enhancing readiness by planning for and stockpiling response resources
- 3. Establishing related institutional and technical capacities and capabilities (e.g. laboratories, community clinics, and rapid response teams)
- 4. Implementing public health surveillance programmes
- 5. Enhancing environmental health programmes
- 6. Engaging communities
- **7**. Training staff and validating plans.

Planning and development of a PHEOC

a. Legal authority

To establish a PHEOC, a Member State should develop legislation or an executive directive for the health

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