

Epidemic and Pandemic Q & A

1. What is the function of World Health Organization (WHO)?

Epidemics and pandemics can place sudden and intense demands on health systems and, in addition to their morbidity and mortality, can disrupt economic and business activity.

The World Health Organization (WHO) provides a global system that can rapidly identify and contain public health emergencies and reduce unneeded panic and disruption of trade, travel and society in general.

The International Health Regulations, IHR provide a global framework to address these needs through a collective approach to the prevention, detection, and timely response to any public health emergency of international concern.

Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response (EPR) have six core functions:

- Support Member States for the implementation of national capacities for epidemic preparedness and response in the context of the IHR(2005), including laboratory capacities and early warning alert and response systems;
- Support national and international training programs for epidemic preparedness and response;
- Coordinate and support Member States for pandemic and seasonal influenza preparedness and response;
- Develop standardized approaches for readiness and response to major epidemic-prone diseases (e.g. meningitis, yellow fever, plague);
- Strengthen biosafety, biosecurity and readiness for outbreaks of dangerous and emerging pathogens outbreaks (e.g. SARS, viral hemorrhagic fevers);
- Maintain and further develop a global operational platform to support outbreak response and support regional offices in implementation at regional level.

2. What is the difference between an Epidemic and a Pandemic?

An epidemic occurs when new cases of a certain disease (does not have to be an infectious disease) occur in a given human population, during a given period, substantially exceed what is "expected".

Pandemic is an epidemic of infectious disease that spreads through populations across a large region; for instance a continent, or even worldwide.

3. What is the difference between morbidity and mortality?

Morbidity refers to a diseased state, disability, or poor health due to any cause. Mortality is the condition of being mortal, or susceptible to death.

4. What if I am scheduled to travel on business to a restricted travel area listed on the WHO “Updates for Travelers”?

Zarlink expects employees to follow the WHO “Update for Travelers” recommendations found on the International Travel and Health web site.

Note:

The Travel updates from WHO generally provide updated locations on where not to travel. It is **NOT** the same as providing the locations that have experienced new cases of the disease. We are expecting employees to use common sense when travelling to affected areas. If employees are travelling to an affected area and remain symptom free than there is no need for quarantine. Quarantine is only required if you come into contact with someone with symptoms or travel to a city or region where a travel advisory exists.

Local national authorities that provide Travel Warning Websites could include Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the US, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in the UK, Ministry of Health in Singapore and China, European Union Health, Hong Kong's Center for Health Protection, as well as any location specific Government web sites.

For individual queries about travel, refer to national or specialized websites, ministries of health, travel clinics or practitioners provided on the WHO International Travel and Health website under “Links to national travel and health websites”.

All WHO International Travel & Health and Global Alert Response Operations are available on their web site <http://www.who.int/en/>.

5. What if I have been in contact with family, friends, etc. coming to visit/stay with me from a restricted travel area listed on the WHO “Updates for Travelers”?

Each employee has an obligation to ensure that he or she does not knowingly or unwittingly transmit any illness or disease to fellow Zarlink employees or their families. Employees are required to use discretion when meeting family, friends and others who visit or travel to any of the restricted travel areas recommended in the World Health Organization (WHO) “Updates for Travellers” or who are exhibiting any of the symptoms of illness or disease. If after being in contact with any such person you begin to show any of the symptoms described on the WHO website, you must spend 10 days in quarantine, symptom free before returning to or visiting any Zarlink office around the world. Any time off related to illness will be covered under local sick leave policies.



6. What should I do if I have a customer who wants to visit Zarlink and they are coming from a restricted travel area recommended in the World Health Organization (WHO) “Updates for Travellers”?

Politely inform customers or clients that they cannot visit any of Zarlink’s offices at this time. As appropriate, client meetings should be conducted via teleconference or video conference or scheduled offsite.

7. Is Zarlink going to provide respiratory masks for employees?

According to the Center of Disease Control (CDC), the routine use of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as respirators, gloves, or surgical masks for protection against exposure is currently not recommended in the general workplace and Zarlink will not be providing them. As with other infectious illnesses, one of the most important and appropriate preventive practices is careful and frequent hand hygiene. Cleaning your hands often using both soap and water or waterless alcohol-based hand sanitizers removes potentially infectious materials from your skin and helps prevent disease transmission.

8. Does the quarantine apply if I work in a city that is a restricted travel area recommended in the World Health Organization (WHO) “Updates for Travellers”?

If your office is in a city which is or becomes the subject of a travel restriction from WHO, and you have not traveled to any other restricted city or region, then if you are symptom free, you can attend at your office in that city unless your local Manager, Human Resources Representative or the authorities have established any special or additional restrictions.

9. Coping with Epidemics and Pandemics.

Should you need assistance with respect to managing any stress or concern which may be caused by World Health Organization advisories, please contact your local Human Resources Representative for information regarding available programs.