

Respiratory Pathogens Pandemic Preparedness Planning

Informal partners engagement forum: Terms of reference

1 April 2022

Purpose

Member States have asked the World Health Organization (WHO), in accordance with resolutions WHA74.7 and WHA58.5, to support their development and implementation of pandemic preparedness planning. In response, WHO is initiating a consultative process to update preparedness planning guidance, tools and training materials for respiratory pathogens with pandemic potential.

The updated resources will be collectively housed in a Respiratory Pathogen Pandemic Resource Pack (R-PRP). The objective of the web-based R-PRP is to support a harmonized approach to planning for future pandemics caused by respiratory pathogens. This resource pack will: a) incorporate lessons learned from respiratory pathogen epidemics and pandemics such as influenza, MERS-CoV-2, SARS-CoV-2, b) provide a broader respiratory pathogen focus with pathogen specific elements where needed, c) leverage new modalities for partner engagement and shared learning, and d) capitalize on the current momentum to strengthen national functional capacities for preparedness and response.

Scope

To strengthen networking for respiratory pathogen preparedness planning, WHO is establishing and convening an informal coordination forum, the Respiratory Pathogens Partners Engagement Forum (R-PEF). The R-PEF will enable partners to exchange information on planned activities, lessons learnt, gaps and needs, reviews, and other developments relating to pandemic preparedness for respiratory pathogens. The R-PEF will focus on elements common to respiratory pathogen preparedness. The R-PEF does not advise or provide inputs for the purposes of norms and standards setting to WHO.

Frequency of meeting

The R-PEF will meet virtually every two months throughout 2022, with the possibility of holding additional ad hoc meetings. WHO may extend the forum into 2023 based on R-PRP progress. WHO will serve as the Secretariat for the R-PEF including hosting the virtual meetings.

Participation

Partners from the following entities can join the R-PEF: academic institutions, institutions with international capacity-strengthening programmes, intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, donors/prospective donors, and philanthropic foundations. Partners must have a planned or existing portfolio of work (implementation, advocacy, research, resourcing) in pandemic preparedness planning for or response to respiratory pathogens.

Institutions/entities interested should write to PRET@who.int including the following:

1. Statement of previous work or anticipated activities related to respiratory pathogen preparedness planning (<150 words)
2. Designated focal point name, title and email contact

Way of work

WHO will convene the informal meetings.

WHO reserves the right to accept or reject any partner's expression of interest, to annul the open call process and reject all expressions of interest at any time without incurring any liability to the affected partner or partners and without any obligation to inform the affected partner or partners of the grounds for WHO's action. WHO may also decide, at any time, not to proceed with the R-PEF, change the approach or to disband it. WHO shall not in any way be obliged to reveal, or discuss with any partner, how an expression of interest was assessed, or to provide any other information relating to the selection process for participation or to state the reasons for not choosing a partner.