U.S. Commitment to the Global Health Security Agenda

Toward a World Safe & Secure from Infectious Disease Threats

Today's Global Health Security Risks

- Emergence and spread of new microbes;
- Globalization of travel and trade;
- Rise of drug resistance; and
- Potential for accidental release, theft or illicit use.

The United States is strengthening Global Health Security, but no one country's effort alone can achieve this goal. The strategy to achieve Global Health Security is rooted in science and global partnerships based on three widely accepted concepts and nine objectives.

Over the next five years the United States commits to working with at least 30 partner countries to advance model systems of Global Health Security, in the following specific areas:

Prevent

- Prevent the emergence and spread of antimicrobial drug resistant organisms and emerging zoonotic diseases, and strengthen international regulatory frameworks governing food safety.
- Promote national biosafety and biosecurity systems.
- Reduce the number and magnitude of infectious disease outbreaks.

Detect

- Launch, strengthen and link global networks for real-time biosurveillance.
- Strengthen the global norm of rapid, transparent reporting and sample sharing.
- Develop and deploy novel diagnostics and strengthen laboratory systems.
- Train and deploy an effective biosurveillance workforce.

Respond

- Develop an interconnected global network of Emergency Operations Centers and multi-sectoral response to biological incidents.
- Improve global access to medical and non-medical countermeasures during health emergencies.

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Addressing Needs

- While progress has been made, there is much work to do in order to achieve the comprehensive, global system that is needed to defend against biological threats.
- Working together toward the aims of the Global Health Security agenda, the United States and partners around the world will protect populations from pandemic threats, economic loss, instability, and loss of life.

Protection on Multiple Fronts

The U.S. government collaborates with international partners through multiple platforms, programs and partnerships to build capacity and enhance Global Health Security. These include the Global Disease Detection Centers, Field Epidemiology Training Program, Emerging Pandemic Threats Program, Cooperative Biological Engagement Program, Biosecurity Engagement Program, Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System, and others. These efforts advance the Global Health Security agenda by developing technical skills, enhancing safe and secure laboratory systems, and connecting information systems to improve decision-making and to prevent, detect, and respond to diseases more effectively.

U.S. Commitments

Through the Global Health Security agenda, the United States seeks to accelerate progress toward a world safe and secure from infectious disease threats and to take action to promote global health security as an international priority. To achieve these goals, it is important to coordinate closely across the many departments and agencies that play a role in the GHS agenda, including the Departments of Health and Human Services, State, Defense, Agriculture, and the U.S. Agency for International Development. Some key examples of U.S. commitments to accelerate progress toward Global Health Security include:

- Over the next five years the United States commits to working with at least 30 partner countries to advance model systems to advance the Global Health Security agenda.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Defense will work with other U.S. agencies and partner countries to establish emergency operations centers, build information systems, and strengthen laboratory security to mitigate biological threats and build partner capacity. In 2014 we will expand this effort to 10 additional partner nations.
- In 2014, to effectively respond to outbreaks of disease with pandemic potential, the United States, in partnership with Canada and Mexico, will implement trilateral emergency communication protocols for information sharing among the health, agriculture, security, and foreign affairs sectors.
- In 2014 the United States Department of Agriculture will partner with OIE, FAO, and other nations to rapidly detect, diagnose and manage especially dangerous animal diseases in affected and high-risk countries.
- In 2014 the U.S. Agency for International Development will launch its new Emerging Pandemic Threats (2) Program in 20 countries - providing technical and operational support for “preventing, detecting and responding to” new emerging zoonotic disease threats.
- In 2014, under the IHR (2005) framework, the United States will work with partners to strengthen National IHR Focal Point-related capacities, including the development of formal processes for the rapid assessment and notification of potential public health emergencies of international concern.

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