The International Health Regulations 2005 require notification to the World Health Organization (WHO) of any event that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).

What is a PHEIC?
An extraordinary public health event:
- that constitutes a public health risk to other countries through its international spread and
- that may require a coordinated international response

There are time requirements for reporting events
- 48 hours to assess an event once the national government becomes aware of it
- 24 hours to report a potential PHEIC if assessment indicates it is necessary
- 24 hours to report a potential international public health risk outside of a country’s own territory

There are time requirements for responding to WHO requests
- 24 hours to reply to or acknowledge a WHO request
- 24 hours to make available public health information requested by the WHO
- 48 hours to come to an agreement with the Director-General on whether an event constitutes a PHEIC before it may be referred to the IHR Emergency Committee to determine the status of the event