

Declaration Among the Department of Health and Human Services of the United States of America, the Department of Health of Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the Ministry of Health of the United Mexican States

The Department of Health and Human Services of the United States of America, the Department of Health of Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the Ministry of Health of the United Mexican States, declare their intent:

1. To assist one another during a public-health emergency, understanding that:
 - (i) in the event of a public-health emergency and depending on the nature and geographic spread of the emergency, each signatory may have to attend to the well being of the people of their respective countries and follow other established national response plans prior to providing assistance to one of the other signatories pursuant to this Declaration. Therefore, the intention set forth in this Declaration is limited to situations in which it is appropriate and possible for the signatories to provide public-health emergency assistance to each other.

2. To cooperate to improve their respective public-health emergency preparedness and response efforts and to that effect, to cooperate in specific areas, which include the following:
 - (i) Global health, health security, border health, laboratory testing, diagnosis and treatment, epidemiological investigation, and the control of infectious diseases;
 - (ii) Pandemic-influenza preparedness and response; and
 - (iii) Bioterrorism and all-hazards preparedness and response.

3. To cooperate with each other in various ways, such as:
 - (i) Identifying the roles of Federal, State/Provincial and local Governments during a public-health emergency;
 - (ii) Identifying the statutory, regulatory, administrative, operational, and logistical challenges to the sharing of medical personnel, countermeasures and supplies in the event of a public-health emergency;
 - (iii) Sharing information, on a need-to-know basis, for planning purposes, on the administrative, statutory, regulatory, and logistical requirements when requesting and receiving aid from another signatory;
 - (iv) Identifying methods and options that would allow the signatories to assist one another more effectively and efficiently during a public-health emergency;
 - (v) Implementing already developed protocols and creating new protocols, as necessary, that discuss the sharing of the following during a public-health emergency:
 - (A) Health-care and public-health professionals;
 - (B) Medical products approved by each country's relevant regulatory agency and contained within each country's National Stockpile;

- (C) Non-pharmaceutical supplies and goods not regulated by a country's relevant regulatory agency, but contained within the country's National Stockpile; and
 - (D) Sharing specimens and reagents with each country's national reference laboratories (as well as with relevant international health bodies);
 - (vii) Strengthening operating procedures/processes for the sharing of laboratory information before and during an emergency;
 - (viii) Continuing the technical review and the sharing of assay methods, reagents and laboratory results; and
 - (ix) Participating in trilateral or bilateral exercises to assess and strengthen public-health emergency-response plans.
4. To identify, should a signatory choose to do so, additional entities that have indicated willingness to take the lead in overseeing the implementation of activities and acceptance of assistance, and to notify the other signatories of such entities;

Understanding that:

This Declaration is not intended to create legally binding obligations, under either domestic or international law.

Signed in Washington, D.C., this first day of November, 2007.

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF CANADA
FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA

FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES