



PRET Overview:

Frequently asked questions about the Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET) initiative



World Health
Organization

EPI•WIN

EPIDEMIC
& PANDEMIC
PREPAREDNESS
& PREVENTION



PRET

Preparedness and Resilience
for Emerging Threats

What is PRET?

- The Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET) initiative brings together WHO, Member States, and partners to advance pandemic planning globally.

PRET:

- ▶ was launched in April 2023 with a Call to Action that urged all countries to update their pandemic plans, to increase connectivity among stakeholders, and to dedicate sustained funding to pandemic preparedness.
- ▶ uses a mode of transmission approach (e.g. respiratory) to strengthen pandemic preparedness and response.
- ▶ helps countries to incorporate experiences from previous epidemics and pandemic into stronger preparedness for the future. It incorporates the latest tools and approaches for shared learning, emphasizes the importance of collective action, and highlights good practices and innovations

What are key learnings from COVID-19 that can be applied to future events?

<p>1. Preparedness works. Investing in functional capacities, interoperable systems, and critical infrastructure makes the world better equipped to respond to emergencies.</p>	<p>2. Health is everyone's business. Pandemic preparedness and response rely on whole-of-government and whole-of-society action. Political leadership, community engagement, and collaboration across institutions, sectors, and borders is essential.</p>
<p>3. No one is safe until everyone is safe. In an interconnected world, what happens in one community or country affects others. Public health and scientific literacy facilitate acceptance and adoption of life-saving interventions. Vulnerable populations must be prioritized globally.</p>	<p>4. Response must be agile and adaptive. As pandemics progress, response systems must monitor new developments, consider contingencies, adapt to evolving circumstances, and operationalize lessons learned along the way.</p>

Synthesizing learning from 90 national intra-action reviews and more than 20 international reviews of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that we build from recent experiences.

What are key learnings from COVID-19 that can be applied to future events?

Countries need to be able to...



Detect, investigate and mitigate outbreaks quickly



Build trust with communities to co-create population and environmental interventions



Rapidly scale up access to safe clinical care where it was needed most



Ensure equitable timely access to countermeasures and essential supplies



Coordinate responses at a national, regional and global level



“COVID-19 will not be the last pandemic. With political and financial investments now, we can prevent and mitigate future pandemics and protect our future and the future of generations to come.”

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization

Why is pandemic planning important?

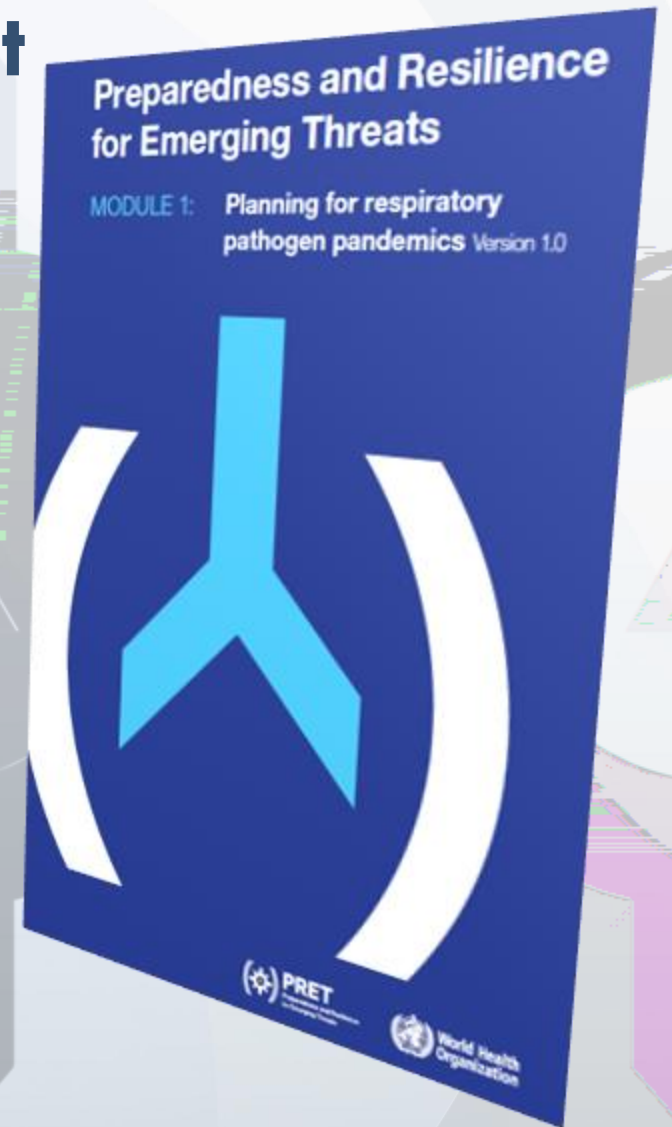
- Pandemic planning can help us to prepare for and mitigate future public health emergencies.
- Through this process, countries:
 - consider their existing functional capacities (e.g. routine systems that can be used/surged during pandemic events) and areas which can be further strengthened,
 - identify priority actions and the responsible stakeholders during a response, and
 - exercise and refine their national pandemic plans.

What resources are available to support pandemic planning?

PRET provides resource packs to support countries and partners in updating national and institutional pandemic plans.

For respiratory pathogen pandemics, these include:

- Technical guidance – PRET Module 1: Planning for Respiratory Pathogen Pandemics and an associated checklist
- A simulation exercise package that can be used to test respiratory pandemic plans
- Advocacy materials on the need for pandemic planning
- A global framework to track progress in respiratory pandemic preparedness capacity strengthening (guidance to inform national frameworks coming in 2024)



What is the value of using a mode of transmission approach to pandemic planning?

- Following the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been global recognition that a **mode of transmission approach to pandemic planning can increase efficiency**. The same systems, capacities, knowledge, and tools can be leveraged and applied for groups of pathogens.
- A **mode of transmission approach includes both known pathogens with pandemic potential and unknown “Pathogen X.”** This approach highlights commonalities across pathogens and recognizes pathogen specific considerations where relevant.
- By **bringing together partners from different sectors**, this approach uses a collaborative, multi-sectoral approach to pandemic planning.



How does PRET fit into the broader context?

- PRET builds from the foundation provided by the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) and reinforces IHR core capacities building. The technical actions in PRET are mapped to the IHR core capacities, grouped according to five subsystems for health emergency preparedness, response and resilience (HEPR).
- At the national level, PRET pandemic plans complement National Action Plans for Health Security by focusing in on the key preparedness actions and response framework for groups of pathogens.



How do I engage? Join the PRET community online...

**Find
resources**



**Engage in
discussions**



**Join
events and
exercises**



**Connect
with the
community**



Join the *Preparedness and Resilience to
Emerging Threats (PRET) community*



Key Links

- Additional information on PRET is available here: www.who.int/news/item/14-04-2023-a-brief-overview-of-the-preparedness-and-resilience-for-emerging-threats-initiative-pret
- Acknowledging:
 - ▶ Countries: Ministries of Health and other sectors and levels engaged
 - ▶ Partners: involved in respiratory pandemic preparedness
 - ▶ WHO: three-level steering committee & technical units providing inputs
- Contact PRET@who.int



Be part of the EPI-WIN community

- Please [subscribe to our mailing list](#) and spread the word about EPI-WIN to help us reach as many people as possible.
- EPI-WIN is the WHO Information Network for Epidemics: <https://www.who.int/teams/epi-win>
- Launched in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- EPI-WIN organizes regular webinars and produces digests like this one to make scientific information accessible, understandable and meaningful to all for health emergency preparedness and response.