

HOW WE GOT HERE

UPDATED APRIL 2024

- 1948 - Joint Resolution of Congress authorizing the U.S. to join the WHO (This is the authorizing statute upon which presidents with HHS have authority to make executive agreements that don't require the advice and consent of the Senate.)
- 1969 - IHR created, covers only 6 diseases.
- 2005 - IHR amended to include any disease that could be a concern, create the PHEIC, and require each country have a Focal Point person as direct contact with WHO.
- 2007 - U.S. accepts the IHR amendments with the reservation that the U.S. will comply if the regulations do not interfere with the independent health decisions of states in the U.S.
- 2020 January - U.S. Declaration of Public Health Emergency by the HHS Secretary, under the Public Health Service Act, for COVID
- 2020 January - WHO Declaration of Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)
- 2020 March - U.S. Declaration of Emergency by the President, triggering FEMA authority under the Stafford Act
- 2020 March - WHO Declaration of global pandemic
- 2020 April - President Trump initiates process to remove the U.S. from the WHO.
- 2021 January - President Biden reinstates U.S. participation in the WHO.
- 2021 December - WHO Special WHA (second in the history of the WHO) convenes to create the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) tasked with drafting the Pandemic Treaty.
- 2022 January - U.S. submits proposed IHR Amendments to the WHO
- 2022 March - European Council announces negotiations will start on Pandemic Treaty.
- 2022 May - IHR Amendment to shorten timeline for future amendments adopted at World Health Assembly, Working Group created to collect and compile more amendments for 2024 vote.
- 2023 May - President Biden ends U.S. emergency declaration for COVID
- 2023 May - World Health Assembly 76.
- 2023 October - UN adopts Political Declaration on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response, to give "political will" to WHO's expansion of power.
- 2023 October - IHR Working Group announces it won't meet its deadline, told the IHR doesn't apply to them and to submit the unseen compilation of 300 amendments at the next WHA.