

Continuous improvement with 7-1-7

By incorporating 7-1-7 into existing workflows, we can make every outbreak an opportunity to improve how we detect and respond to infectious disease threats.

What do all successful outbreak responses have in common? They happen fast—before the disease spreads out of control and becomes an epidemic. 7-1-7 is a clear and simple target for timeliness. Measuring performance against the 7-1-7 target delivers a clear picture of how well detection and response systems are working and surfaces the bottlenecks that cause delays so they can be remedied before the next outbreak strikes.

Use 7-1-7 to drive rapid performance improvement by:

- reviewing outbreak detection and response performance against the 7-1-7 target;
- identifying bottlenecks and enablers to timely detection, notification and response; and
- proposing, implementing and demonstrating the impact of short and long-term actions to address bottlenecks.

Convening a broad group of stakeholders to review important milestones for each outbreak creates a platform to discuss how health security systems are performing and builds a common understanding of how different units work together. Stakeholders can then identify and discuss factors that enabled or delayed timely action. Once bottlenecks have been documented, stakeholders can identify short and long-term actions to resolve them. Incorporating regular 7-1-7 assessments into investigation and response workflows enables real-time and ongoing quality improvement.

7-1-7 IN ACTION

Uganda

In 2022, Uganda used data from 7-1-7 assessments alongside data from other components of the IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to prioritize the most critical activities in its Annual Operational Plan to improve epidemic preparedness for 2023. For example, 7-1-7 identified delayed detection of certain priority diseases such as anthrax and viral hemorrhagic fever due to lack of community awareness, so officials prioritized developing and distributing community educational materials targeted toward these key diseases.

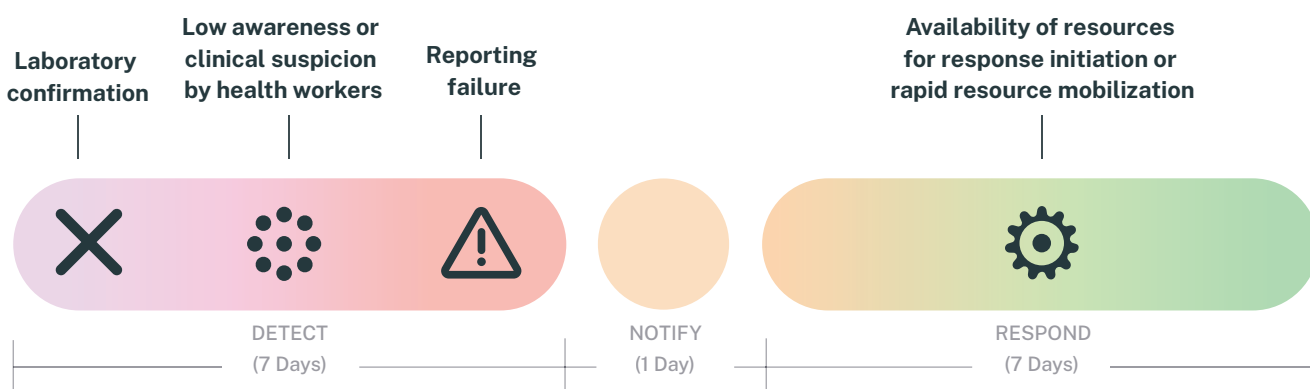




Long-term systems improvement

Where bottlenecks can't be addressed without additional resources or stakeholder support, the clear data delivered by a 7-1-7 assessment can be used to effectively advocate for attention or financing to drive long-term system improvements. The data generated with the 7-1-7 approach can help countries better prioritize activities in their National Action Plans for Health Security (NAPHS) or Annual Operational Plans. Consolidating 7-1-7 data across multiple events demonstrates the frequency of different system failures and quantifies those delays. Disaggregating results by factors such as disease type, geography, and affected population can help identify system gaps and promote equity of health security system performance. This information obtained from real-world events complements existing components of the IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, such as the State Parties Self-Assessment Annual Reporting (SPAR) and Joint External Evaluation (JEE) tools, to empower countries to make evidence-based decisions to prioritize addressing the most critical bottlenecks to timely detection, notification and response.

Common bottlenecks surfaced in 7-1-7 reviews



7-1-7 IN ACTION

United States

In the United States, one 7-1-7 assessment identified an unexpected bottleneck. Prompted to investigate why it had taken several days to receive the flight manifest for a passenger infected with measles, the jurisdiction discovered that it had the wrong phone number for requesting flight manifests from the airport. Just by updating one phone number, the jurisdiction could improve their outbreak detection time and receive a flight manifest within one day for a subsequent case of monkeypox.

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