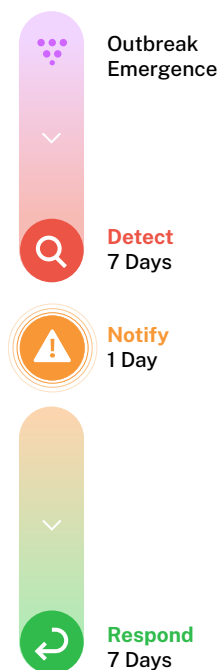# 7-1-7 Alliance

7-1-7: Rapid improvement for early disease detection and response

Why 7-1-7?

The 7-1-7 target promotes early and effective action to contain outbreaks of infectious disease.

Outbreak Emergence

Detect
7 Days

Notify
1 Day

Respond
7 Days

7-1-7 sets clear standards for three timeliness metrics:

- 7 days to **detect** a suspected disease outbreak;

- 1 day to **notify** relevant public health authorities;

- 7 days to **complete** early response actions.

The 7-1-7 approach to strengthening health security uses these timeliness metrics to easily assess how early detection and response systems are performing in real-world situations.

When the standards are not met, the 7-1-7 approach helps countries rapidly improve their performance by simply and systematically surfacing bottlenecks to timely and effective action. Many bottlenecks can be addressed with low-cost and quick-to-implement solutions—such as workflow and coordination improvements. Progress on those requiring longer-term efforts can be accelerated by using 7-1-7 data to advocate for necessary resources and financing.

Uses of the 7-1-7 target

- **Performance Improvement:** Delays and bottlenecks are easily identified and quantified, so remedial actions can be taken quickly;

- **Prioritization for financing and systems strengthening:** Clear data on real-world system performance simplifies prioritization of available and needed financing (complementing the Joint External Evaluation and State Parties Self-Assessment Annual Reporting);

- **Communications and advocacy:** When presented with simple metrics, political leaders and donors can easily visualize resource needs and necessary policy interventions, substantiated by clear data, as well as returns on investment;

- **Accountability and reporting:** Reporting against simple metrics can monitor performance, evaluate interventions and improve transparency.

7-1-7 and the IHR monitoring framework

The 7-1-7 target focuses attention on the performance of outbreak detection and response systems in real-world conditions. This complements the State Parties Self-Assessment Annual Reporting (SPAR) and Joint External Evaluation (JEE) tools, which provide a comprehensive assessment of national capacities, but do not necessarily reflect how well countries leverage these capacities under pressure (as observed during the COVID-19 pandemic, when many countries with a well-rated capacity to prevent and control global health threats failed to respond as expected).

The focus of the 7-1-7 target can also help decision-makers prioritize. When developing a National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS), many countries have found it challenging to balance the multiple, competing actions required to improve JEE and SPAR scores across all technical areas. 7-1-7 data can help direct attention and funding to activities that will improve capacity by accelerating detection and response (both immediately, and in the long-term).

Finally, the 7-1-7 target serves as an advocacy and accountability tool. By presenting clear data based on simple metrics, political leaders and donors can easily visualize resource and policy needs. The 7-1-7 target also simplifies monitoring and improves transparency, making it easier to demonstrate the impact of interventions.

Each country's progress toward the 7-1-7 target will make the world a safer place that is better prepared to prevent and stop epidemics.

7-1-7's early response actions

To ensure that all pillars of a successful response have been activated, the 7-1-7 approach requires the following actions within 7 days of notifying relevant public health authorities:

- Initiate investigation or deploy an investigation/response team

- Conduct epidemiological analysis of burden, severity and risk factors, and perform initial risk assessment

- Obtain laboratory confirmation of the outbreak etiology

- Ensure appropriate case management and initiate appropriate training and infection prevention and control measures in health facilities

- Initiate medical counter-measures and/or public health and social measures

- Initiate risk communication and community engagement activities

- Establish an incident management and coordination system