The designation of National IHR Focal Points has made an important contribution to the process of developing the IHR (2005). Under the Regulations National IHR Focal Points are to play an equally important role in implementing the Regulations at the national level. The National IHR Focal Point is charged with maintaining a continuous official communication channel between WHO and States Parties. In addition to this legal requirement, the National IHR Focal Point will need to ensure the analysis of national public health risks in terms of international impact, participate in collaborative risk assessment with WHO, advise senior health and other government officials regarding notification to WHO and implementation of WHO recommendations, and distribute information to and coordinate input from several national sectors and government departments.

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