

Pacific Heads of Health

Réunion des directeurs de la santé du Pacifique

Public health measures at Points of Entry (POE)

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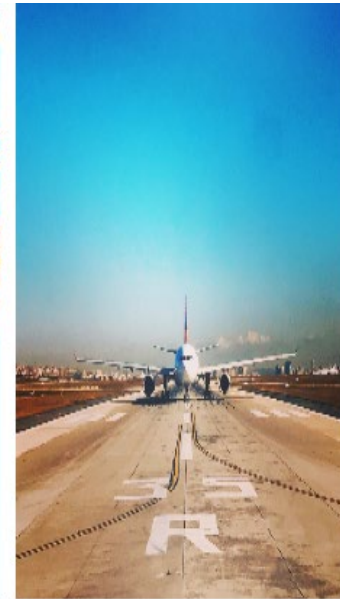
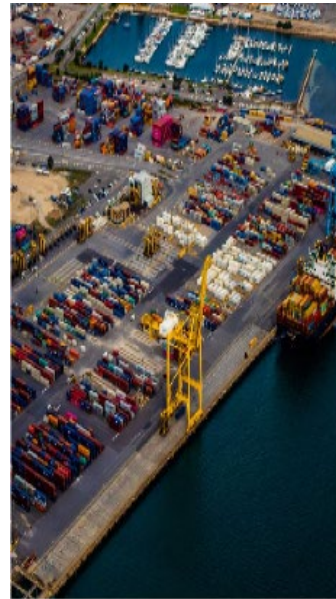
WHO Health Emergencies Programme

WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific

Public health measures at POE are important for infectious diseases response

POE are one of the most important intervention points for infectious disease response

- IHR (2005): POE is defined as “... a passage for international entry or exit of travellers, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods and postal parcels as well as agencies and areas providing services to them on entry or exit”. POE includes ports, airports and land crossings.

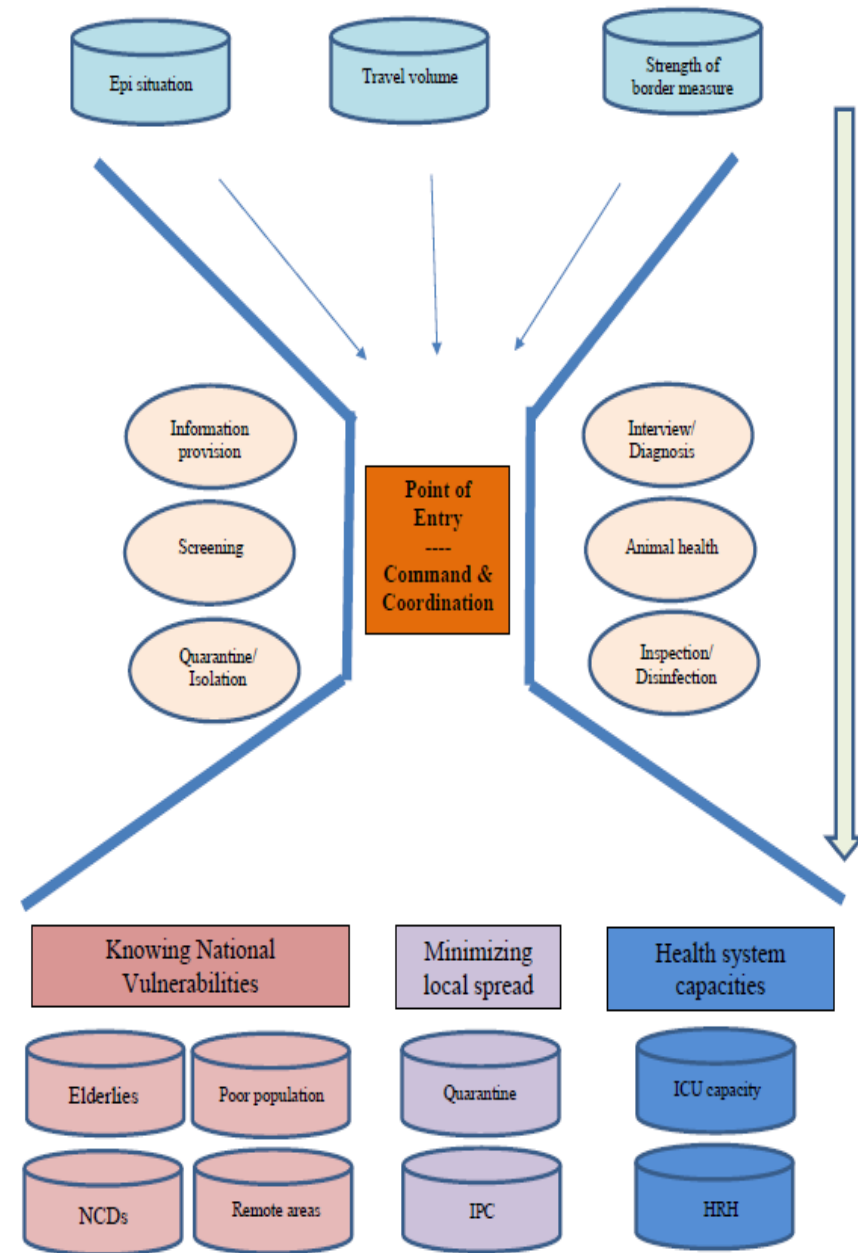


Points of entry as part of national and international systems

- POE interfaces between national and international systems.
- Linking local and global response.
- POE measures when implemented with post-border surveillance and containment measures can slow down the introduction of virus.
- Exit measures can minimize risk of exportation of virus.

GLOBAL INFORMATION SHARING AND COMMUNICATION

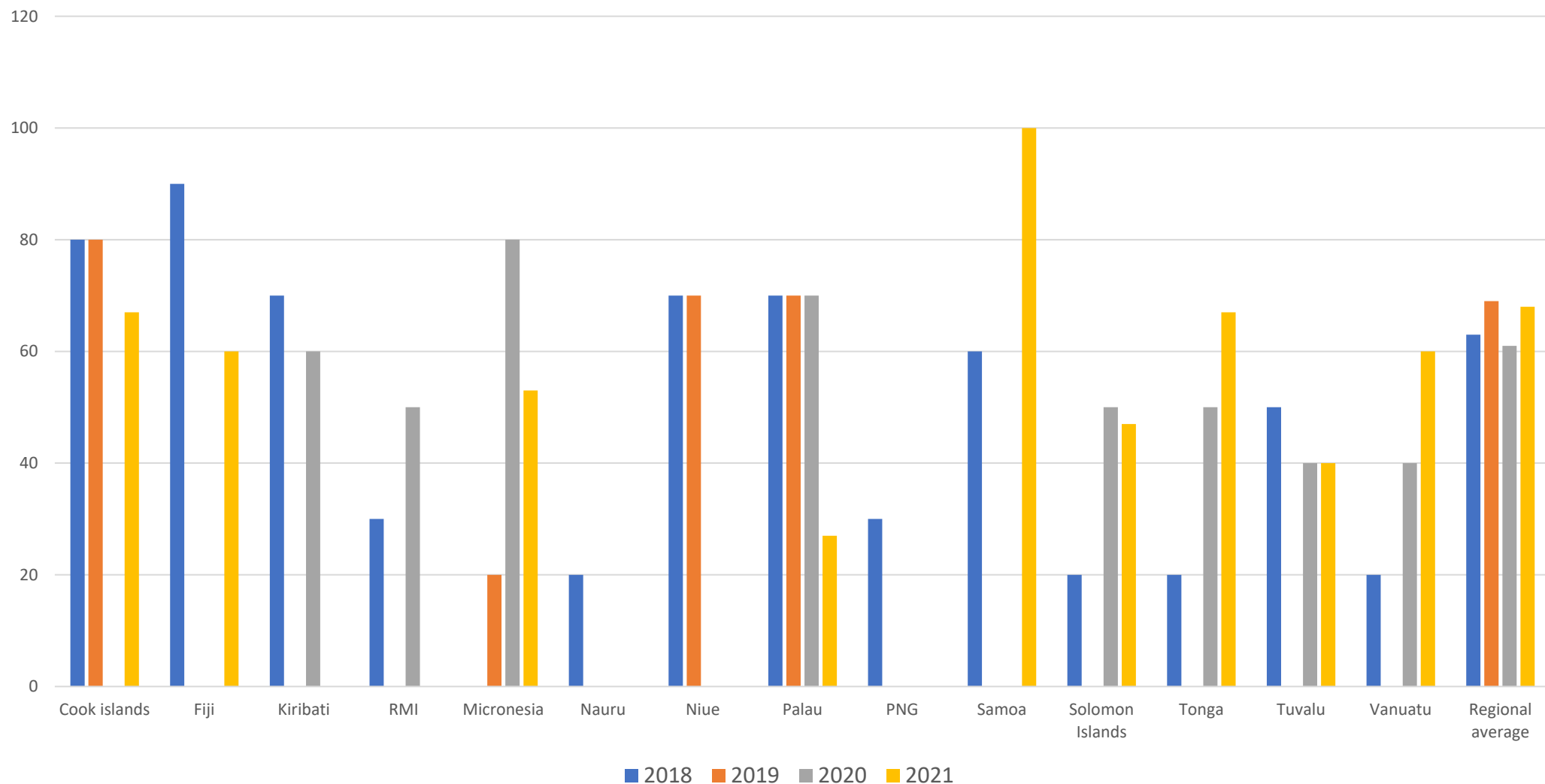
- Sharing of information to National IHR Focal Points to support contact tracing.
- Coordinated measures at POE.



Capacity requirements for response at POEs (emergency)



Capacities at POE in selected PICs (%)



Challenges

- **Collaboration & sharing of information** across borders on POE measures as well as travellers to support risk assessment and calibration of border policies is still limited
- **Exit measures** not implemented early to prevent export
- **Coordination** of relevant authorities at POE for management of large movement of travellers is still sub-optimal, i.e.:
 - Dedicated place for temporary isolation of suspected cases
 - Measures to ensure adequate distancing
 - Transportation to quarantine facilities
 - Infection prevention and control (IPC)
 - Logistics to support public health actions at POE



Issues identified at POE during COVID-19 response

Public health measures at POE can **slow down the introduction of virus**, providing additional time for the health system to prepare.

Potential high costs and negative consequences associated with POE measures:

- Loss of economic benefits
- Costs for screening of travellers
- Costs for maintaining quarantine/isolation facilities



Issues identified at POE during COVID-19 response

Command & control

- Interagency coordination is essential to mount effective border measures

Cross border collaboration

- Working with transport operators and countries for management of cross border movement
- Sharing of information is critical to inform risk assessment and coordinate POE measures with other countries

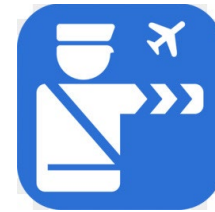
POE as part of national surveillance system



Suggested systems approach for POE



Transform command & control structure at POE to improve intra-agency coordination and support response



Empower POE with added capacities to prevent export and spread through implementation of exit measures



Establish regional platform for enhancing cross border collaboration & information sharing to support decision-making



Strengthen public health role & integrate POE to national surveillance system to support early detection, contact tracing, decision-making

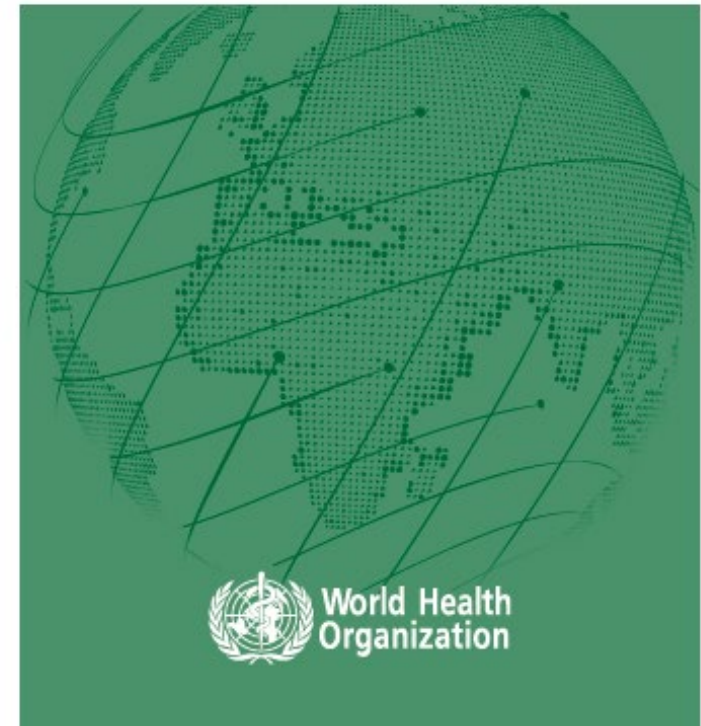
Joint External Evaluation (JEE)

A tool to assess preparedness

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (2005)

JOINT EXTERNAL EVALUATION TOOL

THIRD EDITION



Purposes of JEE

- To allow countries to **identify the most urgent needs** within their health security system,
- To **prioritize opportunities for enhanced preparedness**, operational response,
- To promote ***more inclusive partnership*** and ***transparency***
- To support **fund mobilization**

What does JEE cover?

- 19 capacities and 59 indicators based on the IHR (2005)

Arranged under the following headings:

- Preventing and reducing the likelihood of outbreaks and other public health risks and events.
- Detecting signals of unusual health events early.
- Rapid and effective multisectoral response, including international mobilization.
- IHR Hazards and points of entry, including chemical events and radiation emergencies.

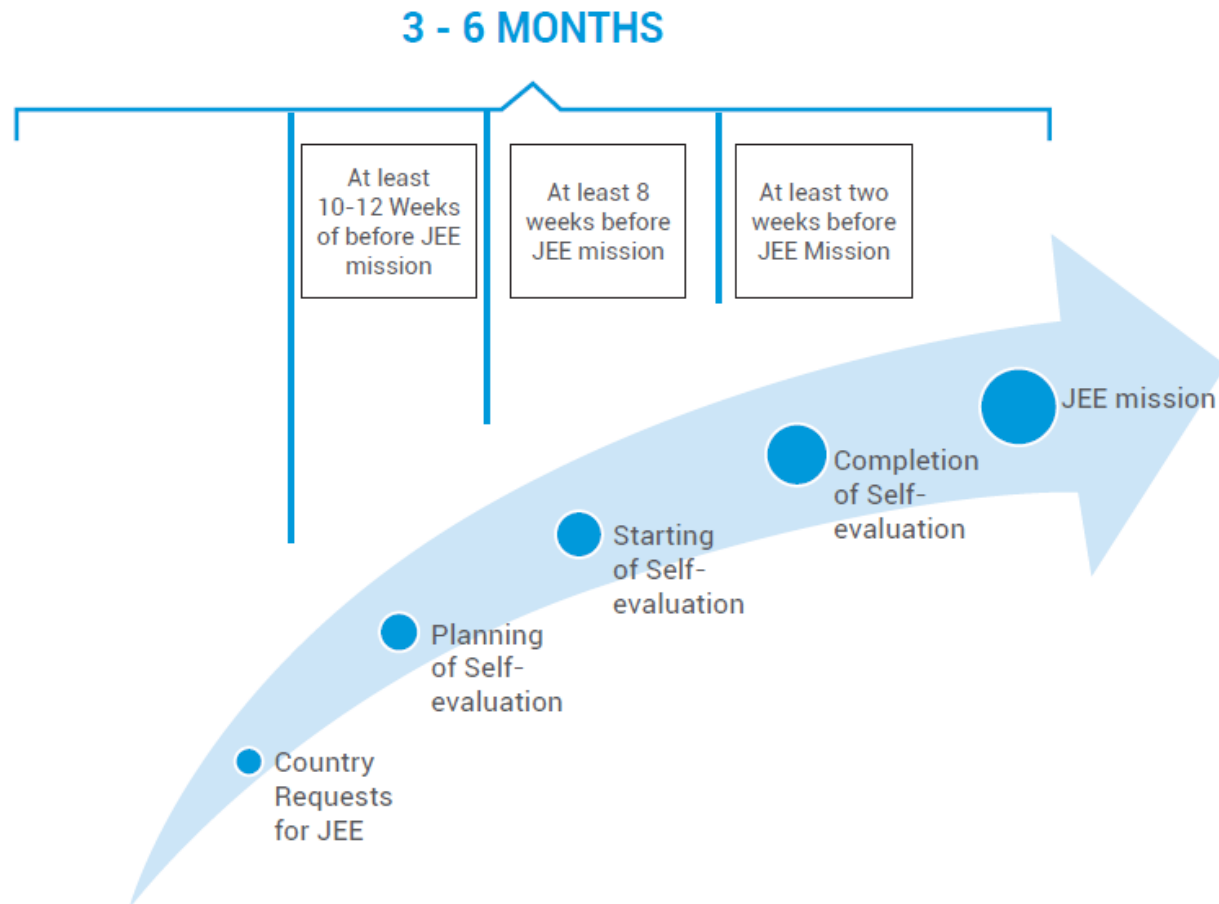
Electronic JEE

- Enable country focal point to **manage the multisectoral team members for the self-assessment online**
- Facilitate **gathering of information prior to and during missions** with the aim of increasing the agility of JEE to continue during global crisis
- The e-platform consists of 2 main sections: 1) open to public; and 2) secured part with access available only to national officials registered users (normally the IHR NFP)
- Electronic platform provides **opportunities for experts to join the evaluation virtually** (hybrid approach)
- Provide **automatic checks, alerts** to avoid errors in data entry

JEE process

- Stage I – Country Self-Assessment;
- Stage II – External Evaluation Team; and
- Stage III – Post-JEE: Integrate recommendations into capacity building plans such as National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS)

Timeline for a JEE



- JEE can be initiated by Member States by sending request to WHO, or
- WHO may suggest conduct of JEE to a Member State based on scores of State Party Annual Report (SPAR)

Thank you for your attention