

IM²C 2021 Greater China Problem D (Winter) (English 简体 繁體)

Are we prepared for the next wave of global biosafety threat?

Background

The current Covid-19 pandemic has severely impacted economies and societies around the globe in various aspects. Schools are temporarily closed where teaching and learning activities are conducted online. Greater flexibility is allowed in work arrangements in the business and public sectors, where employees may work from home and meetings are carried out remotely by electronic means. Brick-and-motor retails are suffering from significant drops in sales, while e-commerce and delivery services have experienced more operational challenges resulting from substantially increased demand volumes. Traveling has become more difficult due to higher risks of contracting diseases, travel restrictions, and quarantine requirements. The pandemic not only has posed great threats to the healthcare systems and safety of human beings, but also has significantly affected our physical and mental wellness and transformed the modes of our business and social activities.

Governments and authorities all over the world have implemented numerous policies and strategies which aim to prevent the spread of the disease in the community. Social gatherings are strongly discouraged, and social-distancing measures are strictly enforced. Biopharmaceutical companies, universities, and research institutes have devoted substantial efforts into developing vaccines and medicines to save patients and reduce risks of further infections in the community. While these measures and actions are necessary to fight against the Covid-19 outbreak, an even more effective way of saving the world from such kind of biosafety threat is to prevent an outbreak from the very beginning. Preparedness for the next wave of biosafety threat by the global joint efforts is the essential solution.

Problem Context

In 2005, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued the International Health Regulations (IHR) (World Health Organization, 2008). These regulations were agreed by 196 countries in response to global disease threats and other public health risks. Countries self-report their compliance with IHR every year using a monitoring tool (IHRMT) proposed by WHO and may assess their level of compliance by Joint External Evaluation (JEE) on a voluntary basis (Boyd et al., 2020). In JEE, a country makes their self-assessment, and this assessment is shared with a group formed by WHO and non-WHO experts. The team then visit the country and make an independent assessment. In the current version of the JEE assessment tool, there are four core categories: prevent, detect, respond and IHR Related Hazards and Points of Entry, which include 19 technical areas and 49 indicators (WHO, 2018).

There have been concerns about the effectiveness of the JEE tool because of the self-assessment conducted by the country and the emergence and mitigation of biothreats that are not covered by the indicators used in JEE (Boyd et al., 2020). In 2019, another assessment index - Global Health Security Index (GHSI) - was proposed by academics and developed by the Center for Health Security, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Cameron et al., 2019). GHSI provides a comprehensive framework of 140 questions, under six categories of (i) Prevention, (ii) Detection and Reporting, (iii) Rapid Response, (iv) Health System, (v) Compliance with International Norms, and (vi) Risk

Environment. In total, 34 indictors and 85 subindicators are used to evaluate the capability of a country to prevent and contain pandemics and epidemics. However, similar to JEE, there are concerns about the validity of GHSI, such as the skew of indicators in favor of high-income countries (Razavi et al., 2020).

While JEE and GHSI are the most popular assessment tools in evaluating the preparedness for biosafety threats and other related public health risks, researches (e.g., Aitken et al., 2020; Haider et al. 2020) have suggested that these two tools may not be effective in response to the Covid-19 outbreak. Countries and authorities may need to revisit these tools and consider further factors to design more robust assessment methods for better preparedness for future pandemics or other biosafety threats (Aitken et al., 2020; Boyd et al., 2020; Haider et al. 2020).

Task

- 1. What are the factors that may be useful to assess a country or area's preparedness for biosafety threat? How will you measure such factors?
- 2. Suggest an assessment tool and a metric that measure a country or area's preparedness for biosafety threat. How will you evaluate this metric based on the factors you suggested in Task 1?
- 3. To ensure the effectiveness of an assessment tool for a country or area's preparedness for biosafety threat, model validation is necessary. Please suggest a model validation procedure and examine the effectiveness of your proposed assessment tool.
- 4. What recommendations can you propose to WHO based on your study? You are invited to write a letter to WHO to present your key findings that may help prevent the next wave of biosafety threat.

Submission

Your solution paper should include a one-page Summary Sheet and a two-page Letter to WHO. The body cannot exceed 20 pages for a maximum of 23 pages with the Summary Sheet and Letter inclusive. The appendices and references should appear at the end of the paper and do not count towards the 23 pages limit.



IM²C 2021 中华赛 D 题(冬季赛)(English 简体 繁體)

应对下一波全球生物安全威胁: 我们准备好了吗?

背景

当前的新冠病毒肺炎大流行已在各个方面严重影响了全球经济与社会。学校暂时关闭,教学活动在网上进行。商业和公共部门的工作安排采取更大的灵活性,让员工可以在家中工作,会议可以通过电子方式远程举行。实体零售业正遭受销售大幅下降,而电子商务和递送服务由于需求量的大增也遇到更多的运营挑战。由于感染风险、出行限制和隔离要求,旅行变得更加困难。全球大流行不仅对医疗系统和人类安全构成了巨大威胁,而且极大地影响了我们的身心健康,也改变了我们的商业和社交活动方式。

全世界的政府和当局已经实施了许多旨在防止该疾病在社区内传播的政策和策略。社交聚会受到强烈劝阻,社交距离措施严格实施。生物制药公司、大学和研究机构已投入巨大努力开发疫苗和药物,以挽救患者并减少社区传染的风险。尽管采取这些措施和行动是对抗Covid-19爆发所必需的,但使世界免受这种生物安全威胁的更有效方法是从一开始就防止爆发。全球共同努力为下一波生物安全威胁做好准备是必不可少的解决方案。

问题情境

2005年,世界卫生组织(WHO)发布了《国际卫生条例(IHR)》(世界卫生组织,2008年),获 196个国家同意,以应对全球疾病威胁和其他公共卫生风险。各国每年使用世卫组织提出的监测工具(IHRMT)自我报告其对《国际卫生条例》的遵守情况,并通过联合外部评价(JEE)评估其遵守情况(Boyd等人,2020年)。在 JEE 评估中,一个国家进行自我评估,并与一个由世卫组织和非世卫组织专家组成的工作小组分享自评报告;然后,工作小组访问该国并进行独立评估。在当前版本的 JEE 评估工具中,共有四个核心范畴:预防、检测、反应,以及《国际卫生条例》相关的危害和进入点,涵盖 19 个技术领域的 49 项指标(WHO, 2018)。

由于自我评估以及 JEE 使用的指标未涵盖生物威胁的出现和缓解,人们一直对 JEE 工具的有效性表示担忧(Boyd 等人, 2020 年)。2019 年,学者们提出了另一项评估指标 - 全球健康安全指数(GHSI),由约翰·霍普金斯大学彭博公共卫生学院的健康安全中心制定(Cameron 等人, 2019)。GHSI 提供了 140 个问题的综合框架,分为以下六类: (1) 预防,(2) 检测和报告,(3) 快速响应,(4) 卫生系统,(5) 遵守国际规范,以及(6) 风险环境;总共使用 34 个指标和 85 个子指标来评估一个国家预防和控制流行病和流行病的能力。然而,类似于 JEE,人们对 GHSI 的有效性存有疑虑,例如对高收入国家的指标偏向(Razavi 等人, 2020)。

尽管 JEE 和 GHSI 是对生物安全威胁和其他相关公共健康风险的应对准备最流行的评估工具,但研究表明(例如 Aitken 等,2020; Haider 等 2020),这两种工具可能并未在应对Covid-19 爆发中发挥有效作用。各国当局可能需要重新审视这些工具,并考虑其他因素来设计更可靠的评估方法,以更好地为未来的流行病或其他生物安全威胁做好准备(Aitken 等人,2020 年; Boyd 等人,2020 年; Haider 等人 2020 年)。

任务

- 1. 哪些因素可能有助于评估一个国家或地区对生物安全威胁的准备程度? 您将如何来测度这些因素?
- 2. 建议一种评估工具和度量指标,来衡量一个国家或地区应对生物安全威胁的准备程度。您如何根据任务 1 中建议的因素评估此度量指标?
- 3. 为了确保评估工具对一个国家或地区应对生物安全威胁的准备程度评价的有效性,必 须进行模型验证。请提出一个模型验证程序,检验您提议的评估工具的有效性。
- 4. 根据您的研究,您会向世卫组织提出哪些建议?请您写信给世卫组织,阐述您的主要 发现,这些发现如何能有助人类防范下一波生物安全威胁。

提交

你团队的解决方案论文应包括 1 页的摘要以及一封 1-2 页的致世卫组织的建议函。正文不能超过 20 页,含摘要和建议信最多 23 页。附录和参考资料应出现在正文之后,不算在 23 页的限制之内。



IM2C 2021 中華賽 D 題 (冬季賽) (English 簡體 繁體)

應對下一波全球生物安全威脅:我們準備好了嗎?

背景

當前的新冠病毒肺炎大流行已在各個方面嚴重影響了全球經濟與社會。學校暫時關閉,教學活動在網上進行。商業和公共部門的工作安排采取更大的靈活性,讓員工可以在家中工作,會議可以通過電子方式遠程舉行。實體零售業正遭受銷售大幅下降,而電子商務和遞送服務由於需求量的大增也遇到更多的運營挑戰。由於感染風險、出行限制和隔離要求,旅行變得更加困難。全球大流行不僅對醫療系統和人類安全構成了巨大威脅,而且極大地影響了我們的身心健康,也改變了我們的商業和社交活動方式。

全世界的政府和當局已經實施了許多旨在防止該疾病在社區內傳播的政策和策略。社交聚會受到強烈勸阻,社交距離措施嚴格實施。生物制藥公司、大學和研究機構已投入巨大努力開發疫苗和藥物,以挽救患者並減少社區傳染的風險。盡管采取這些措施和行動是對抗Covid-19 爆發所必需的,但使世界免受這種生物安全威脅的更有效方法是從一開始就防止爆發。全球共同努力為下一波生物安全威脅做好準備是必不可少的解決方案。

問題情境

2005年,世界衛生組織(WHO)發布了《國際衛生條例(IHR)》(世界衛生組織,2008年),獲 196 個國家同意,以應對全球疾病威脅和其他公共衛生風險。各國每年使用世衛組織提出的監測工具(IHRMT)自我報告其對《國際衛生條例》的遵守情況,並通過聯合外部評價(JEE)評估其遵守情況(Boyd等人,2020年)。在 JEE 評估中,一個國家進行自我評估,並與一個由世衛組織和非世衛組織專家組成的工作小組分享自評報告;然後,工作小組訪問該國並進行獨立評估。在當前版本的 JEE 評估工具中,共有四個核心範疇:預防、檢測、反應,以及《國際衛生條例》相關的危害和進入點,涵蓋 19 個技術領域的 49 項指標(WHO, 2018)。

由於自我評估以及 JEE 使用的指標未涵蓋生物威脅的出現和緩解,人們一直對 JEE 工具的有效性表示擔憂(Boyd 等人,2020 年)。2019 年,學者們提出了另一項評估指標-全球健康安全指數(GHSI),由約翰· 霍普金斯大學彭博公共衛生學院的健康安全中心制定(Cameron 等人,2019)。GHSI 提供了 140 個問題的綜合框架,分為以下六類: (1)預防,(2)檢測和報告,(3)快速響應,(4)衛生系統,(5)遵守國際規範,以及(6)風險環境;總共使用 34 個指標和 85 個子指標來評估一個國家預防和控制流行病和流行病的能力。然而,類似於 JEE,人們對 GHSI 的有效性存有疑慮,例如對高收入國家的指標偏向(Razavi等人,2020)。

盡管 JEE 和 GHSI 是對生物安全威脅和其他相關公共健康風險的應對準備最流行的評估工具,但研究表明(例如 Aitken 等, 2020; Haider 等 2020),這兩種工具可能並未在應對

Covid-19 爆發中發揮有效作用。各國當局可能需要重新審視這些工具,並考慮其他因素來設計更可靠的評估方法,以更好地為未來的流行病或其他生物安全威脅做好準備(Aitken 等人, 2020 年; Boyd 等人, 2020 年; Haider 等人 2020 年)。

任務

- 1. 哪些因素可能有助於評估一個國家或地区對生物安全威脅的準備程度? 您將如何來 測度這些因素?
- 2. 建議一種評估工具和度量指標,來衡量一個國家或地区應對生物安全威脅的準備程度。您如何根據任務 1 中建議的因素評估此度量指標?
- 3. 為了確保評估工具對一個國家或地区應對生物安全威脅的準備程度評價的有效性,必須進行模型驗證。請提出一個模型驗證程序,檢驗您提議的評估工具的有效性。
- 4. 根據您的研究, 您會向世衛組織提出哪些建議?請您寫信給世衛組織, 闡述您的主要發現, 這些發現如何能有助人類防範下一波生物安全威脅。

提交

你團隊的解決方案論文應包括 1 頁的摘要以及一封 1-2 頁的致世衛組織的建議函。正文不能 超過 20 頁,含摘要和建議信最多 23 頁。附錄和參考資料應出現在正文之後,不算在 23 頁的 限制之內。