



Strategies Against Emerging Infectious Diseases: US Perspectives

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In 1992, the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine published a landmark report, *Emerging Infections: Microbial Threats to Health in the United States*, which pointed to major challenges for the public health and medical communities in detecting and managing infectious disease outbreaks and monitoring the prevalence of endemic diseases. This report, while focused on the risk to human and animal populations in North America, was a wake up call for all that infectious diseases remain a tangible threat to international security and well being. As we enter the 21st century, infectious diseases continue to burden populations around the world. Both naturally occurring and intentionally introduced biological threats hold increasing potential to cause disease, disability and death. And beyond disease itself, the ability of infectious agents to destabilize populations, economies and governments is fast becoming a fact of life. The prevention and control of infectious diseases are fundamental to individual, national and global health and security.

Over the past decade, countries around the world have taken important steps to strengthen their capacity to address the threats posed by these diseases. However, more now than ever, the potential for emerging infectious diseases to impact the health and safety of our world is being recognized. This presentation will provide an overview of those factors related to emerging infectious diseases and how the world community must respond for us to minimize the impact. It will not be sufficient to merely describe the problem of emergence, but we must also lay out detailed plans for the detection and response to these problems.

References

1. Institute of Medicine. *Emerging Infections: Microbial Threats to Health in the United States*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press. 1992.
2. Institute of Medicine. *Microbial Threats to Health: Emergence, Detection, and Response*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press. 2003.