

Changing threats, new responses

Health security threats are rising across the globe. Our world is changing in multiple, compound ways that are amplifying the health security challenges the UK and other countries are likely to face.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a reminder of the impact that health hazards can have on our lives and livelihoods. It has also shown the great strides that can be made when local and national government, public and voluntary sector, industry and academia work together, developing innovative solutions and harnessing the power of data and scientific insight to drive policy and response.

Our goals as the nation's health security agency

Our new Strategic Plan explains how we'll work to achieve three goals, setting out how we will **prepare**, **respond** and **build**.

- **Prepare:** UKHSA aims to ensure that the country is fully prepared for - and wherever possible can prevent - future health security hazards.
- **Respond:** UKHSA responds to the threats around us now, from infectious diseases to environmental hazards
- **Build:** We build and invest in the scientific, public health and operational capabilities needed to protect the country's health now and in the future.

In working to achieve our goals we recognise that health threats often disproportionately impact certain groups and therefore tackling health inequalities is central to UKHSA's work. We actively address this across all of our activity, working closely with the Department of Health and Social Care, including the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.

Our strategic priorities



Our strategic priorities - summary



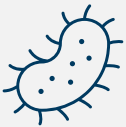
1: Be ready to respond to all hazards to health

We will ensure we have the right plans, expertise, infrastructure, capabilities and countermeasures in place to prevent and mount scalable and agile responses to health security threats, including pandemics. We will support the whole health system to enhance its readiness and to develop robust response plans.



2: Improve health outcomes through vaccines

We will harness UKHSA's strengths across the whole vaccine pathway to facilitate innovation in the development of safe and effective vaccines, reliable procurement and increased uptake among the population, thereby reducing the burden of infectious disease.



3: Reduce the impact of infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance

We will harness our science, analytical and operational expertise to minimise the impact of infectious disease, with a focus over the next three years on COVID-19, antimicrobial resistance and our elimination targets for blood-borne viruses and tuberculosis.



4: Protect health from threats in the environment

We will protect the population from the health effects of environmental, chemical, radiological and nuclear incidents of any scale by improving planning and preparedness and providing public health expertise to inform policy and response.



5: Improve action on health security through data and insight

We will maximise our partnerships and the health impact of the data we hold, the evidence we generate and the insights we draw, to be a leader in safe and regulated handling and use of public health data, analytics and surveillance.



6: Develop UKHSA as a high-performing agency

We will ensure UKHSA is ready to prepare for and respond to health security challenges, at scale as required, by investing in our people and culture; partnerships and relationships; data, science and research and operational excellence.

Working with us

UKHSA can't deliver our priorities alone. We depend on our relationships with partners from local and national government, health and care, voluntary sector, academia and more.

We are also committed to forging new and innovative partnerships with industry and international bodies.

Please take a moment to read our Strategic Plan on GOV.UK and find out more about our goals, priorities, capabilities and opportunities to collaborate.