



European Commission

Joint Opinion on Improving pandemic preparedness and management



ISSUE

Scientific evidence suggests that epidemics and pandemics will become more frequent with a growing, urbanised and mobile world population. Especially transmission of infectious diseases from animals to humans is expected to become more likely, as climate change and human societies impact ecosystems.

CHALLENGE

The European Union and its Member States need to become better at preventing and preparing for future outbreaks of new infectious diseases.

REQUIREMENTS

- global cooperation,
- a shift to sustainable ways of living,
- better prevention strategies,
- interdisciplinary research and advice,
- robust health infrastructures,
- resilient societal institutions based on the principle of solidarity.

RECOMMENDATIONS



Support and coordinate **research on prevention, biomedical interventions and societal resilience**, during and in between outbreaks.



Improve **collaboration across EU countries** and at the **global level** for knowledge sharing and coordination.



Strengthen **systems for preparedness and management**, including healthcare, resource sharing, education and communication systems.



Uphold highest standards of **fundamental rights and liberties** during crises and let them guide prevention and response strategies.



Find **solidarity-based and sustainable ways of living** to lower the risk of epidemics and pandemics and mitigate their impact in the future.

IMPACT

This Joint Opinion contributes to the European Health Union and other local, European and global debates and efforts to prevent and mitigate the harm of epidemics and pandemics.

This is a summary of a Joint Opinion of the **Group of Chief Scientific Advisors**, the **European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE)** and the Special advisor to the Commission President on the response to COVID-19, **Professor Peter Piot**.

Read the full report [here](#)

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