

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910450414603321
Titolo	Communicable disease control in emergencies [[electronic resource]] : a field manual / / edited by M.A. Connolly
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Geneva, : World Health Organization, 2005
ISBN	1-280-43619-0 9786610436194 92-4-068443-3 92-4-068023-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (302 p.)
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Disciplina	616.9/0425
Soggetti	Communicable diseases - Prevention Communicable diseases Disaster medicine Disasters - Health aspects Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	CONTENTS; ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS; INTRODUCTION; 1 RAPID ASSESSMENT 1.1 Objectives; 2 PREVENTION 2.1 Shelter; 3 SURVEILLANCE 3.1 General principles; 4 OUTBREAK CONTROL 4.1 Preparedness; 5 DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL 5.1 Acute respiratory infections; ANNEX 1 WHO reference values for emergencies; ANNEX 2 Health assessment sample survey forms; ANNEX 3 NCHS WHO normalized reference values for weight for height by sex; ANNEX 4 Weekly surveillance report; ANNEX 5 Case definitions; ANNEX 6 Outbreak investigation kit; ANNEX 7 Organization of an isolation centre and calculation of treatment supplies ANNEX 8 Collection of specimens for laboratory analysis ANNEX 9 Setting up a diagnostic laboratory; ANNEX 10 Treatment guidelines; ANNEX 11 Management of the child with cough or difficulty in breathing; ANNEX 12 Assessment and treatment of diarrhoea; ANNEX 13 Flowcharts for syndromic management of sexually transmitted infections; ANNEX 14 Health card; ANNEX 15 List of WHO guidelines on

**Sommario/riassunto**

This field manual is intended to help health professionals and public health coordinators working in emergency situations prevent, detect and control the major communicable diseases encountered by affected populations. The manual is the result of collaboration among a number of WHO departments and several external partner agencies in reviewing existing guidelines on communicable disease control and adapting them to emergency situations.