



The Operational Centre for the Reception and Regulation of Health and Social Emergencies (Le centre opérationnel de régulation et de réponse aux urgences sanitaires et sociales - CORRUSS)

When an adverse health or environmental event to be shared with national or international health authorities is reported, or when a health situation, that may occasionally be exceptional, is reported and requires a coordinated response at national level, the Operational Centre for the Reception and Regulation of Health and Social Emergencies (Le centre opérationnel de régulation et de réponse aux urgences sanitaires et sociales - CORRUSS) in the Ministry of Health is mobilised. Its mission is to provide operational responses to health emergencies impacting French national territory 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

● A multidisciplinary team and a vast network of partners

The team, made up of doctors, pharmacists, engineers specialised in public health, and crisis managers, benefits from the support of crisis communicators, lawyers, and other experts from the ministry. Together, they define and coordinate responses to health emergencies identified from reports and information sent by a vast network of partners such as:

- regional health agencies in France (agences régionales de santé - ARS);
- French national health and safety agencies: the French Agency for Public Health (Santé publique France), the French agency for the Safety of Medicines and Health Products (Agence nationale de sécurité du médicament et des produits de santé - ANSM), the French Blood Establishment (Etablissement Français du Sang - EFS), the French Agency for Biomedicine (Agence de la biomedicine - ABM), the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail - ANSES), the French National Cancer Institute (Institut national du cancer - INCa), the French Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety (Institut de radioprotection et de sûreté nucléaire - IRSN), and the French Nuclear Safety Authority (Autorité de sûreté nucléaire - ASN);
- French ministries which contribute to the health and safety of French citizens in France or abroad: ministries for the Interior, Foreign Affairs, Food and Agriculture, Environment, Transport, Armed Forces etc.;
- international institutions: World Health Organisation (WHO), European Commission, etc.

DID YOU KNOW?

- CORRUSS is identified as a national focal point (NFP) within the World Health Organisation (WHO) in the framework of the International Health Regulations (IHR), and receives alerts from the European Commission's Early Warning and Reporting System (EWRS). For this reason, it is linked with NFPs from the 196 signatory countries of the IHR.
- Since 2015, all activities undertaken by CORRUSS are ISO 9001 certified, which is evidence of the extremely demanding nature of its quality policy.

● Permanent operational monitoring

The CORRUSS carries out permanent monitoring at national and international level so that it can provide responses to all alerts and health emergencies. It receives and analyses reports sent by its partners within the hour. It checks if management measures implemented are adapted to management of the event, or alternatively it proposes additional management measures. It carries out daily reporting on alerts and sends a report to the Minister each evening.



Additional management measures may also be taken in the context of weekly public health and safety meetings organised by the CORRUSS. Presided by the Director General of Health, this meeting brings together representatives from partner ministries, national health and safety agencies, the High Council for Public Health and from the Health insurance system to discuss sensitive and risk situations concerning health.



Graduated coordination and numerous levers of action in the event of an emergency

From the day-to-day management of health alerts to the management of an exceptional health situation, the CORRUSS has an organisational set-up which is both adapted and proportionate to situations:

- “Level 1: operational monitoring” for the day-to-day management of health alerts;
- “Level 2: heightened CORRUSS” with a team exclusively dedicated to the management of a particular event with a significant impact to health;
- “Level 3: activation of the Health Crisis Centre (Centre de crise sanitaire - CCS)” during an exceptional health situation, with the mobilisation of a multidisciplinary team of up to 40 people.

Depending on the estimated impact of the alert, the CORRUSS may either intervene directly or in support of a partner to lead and coordinate management of the situation in connection with the relevant stakeholders. For this purpose, it has a number of levers of action at its disposal:

- use of all expert resources available within health and safety agencies;
- broadcasting of instructions destined for regional health agencies in France, broadcasting of “DGS-Urgent” messages to health professionals, and “Health Early Warning Messages” (Messages d’Alerte Rapide Sanitaire - MARS) to healthcare institutions and early years local authority networks, etc.
- mobilisation of a reserve of vetted health professionals in connection with the French agency for public health (Santé publique France), in support of a facility or territory impacted in France or abroad;
- use of the Victim Information System (Système d’Information des Victimes - SIVIC) enabling the identification and tracing of victims of a collective accident.

MAJOR EVENTS WHICH REQUIRED SIGNIFICANT MOBILISATION OF CORRUSS AND THE ENTIRE HEALTH SECTOR IN RECENT YEARS



In 2018

1,464 reports received by CORRUSS.

6 Level 2 activations: “Heightened CORRUSS”.

200 “contact tracings”¹ carried out.

62 requests made to the CORRUSS by National Focal Points in other States.

52 weekly health and safety meetings organised.

10 contributions made to international, governmental, and national exercises.

PREPAREDNESS AND ANTICIPATION, TWO ESSENTIAL CONCEPTS

- The CORRUSS organises health exercises on a very regular basis for the benefit of the healthcare system and contributes to governmental and international crisis exercises.
- The CORRUSS coordinates feedback on health crises and communicates learning points to State services and health professionals.
- It also offers training in monitoring and health and safety in partnership with the EHESP School of Public Health in Rennes each year to health professionals wishing to develop their knowledge and skills in the field: www.ehesp.fr

1 - Contact tracing is defined as the identification and tracing of people who may have entered into contact with an individual infected with a contagious disease.