



Colorado's Involvement in National and Global Public Health Networks

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With recent changes in the federal public health landscape, Colorado has taken steps to engage directly with national and global public health networks. From co-founding the new [Governors Public Health Alliance](#) (GPHA) to joining the World Health Organization's (WHO) [Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network](#) (GOARN), Colorado state officials are communicating across state and global borders to better monitor and respond to public health challenges.

Governors Public Health Alliance

In October 2025, Colorado joined GPHA as [one of 15 founding members](#). GPHA was developed out of the nonprofit [GovAct](#), an initiative formed to support coordinated action by governors across states. GovAct launched GPHA largely in response to federal vaccination discussions and changes by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) that [have since been blocked in federal court](#).

GPHA provides a way for governors to work together around consistent public health messaging; recommendations; data sharing; and potentially a vaccine purchasing co-op, if states need to purchase vaccines on their own.

The alliance now represents over one-third of the U.S. population and facilitates collaboration across governors' offices to:

- coordinate on health threat detection;
- support technical health collaboration;
- explore cross-border data exchanges; and
- liaise with global health partners.

While alliance membership is at the gubernatorial level, representatives from the [Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment \(CDPHE\)](#) join the Governor's [Office in GPHA](#) calls, meetings, and discussions. This platform brings states together to strategize and share information on topics relevant to both governors' offices and state health departments. For instance, when federal vaccine recommendations change or federal public health funding changes, GPHA member states can share guidance, technical assistance, and information about how other states are responding.

Additionally, GPHA member states are collaborating with Boston University's [Center on Emerging Infectious Diseases](#) to use information from the [Biothreats Emergence, Analysis and Communications Network](#) (BEACON). Information from this open-source

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global surveillance platform will assist states in tracking diseases and coordinating responses.

Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network

Since its inception in April 2000, WHO's GOARN has responded to [over 175 public health emergencies in 114 countries](#). The network is comprised of [over 360 institutions](#), including:

- national public health agencies;
- medical surveillance and laboratory networks;
- nongovernmental agencies;
- academic institutions;
- the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
- technical organizations; and
- United Nations agencies.

GOARN partner institutions commit to providing technical knowledge and expertise to the network. They also inform the GOARN workplan and implement outbreak alert and response activities in public health emergencies. An operational support team, based at WHO, manages day-to-day GOARN operations with advice and input from a 21-member global steering committee.

According to its [governance framework and strategy](#), GOARN supports disease control efforts in countries and communities by:

- facilitating rapid alerts and coordination;

- ensuring technical assistance is available; and
- supporting national outbreak preparedness by helping contain epidemic threats.

Colorado's Involvement in GOARN

In March 2026, [GOARN accepted CDPHE](#) into the network. Membership in GOARN is specific to the network and does not make Colorado a WHO member state. Other states have also joined the network, like California, Illinois, and New York. Even New York City has joined GOARN.

By joining GOARN's infectious disease sharing network, CDPHE will be able to share information with other members. While CDPHE does not have capacity to respond to international outbreaks, the department could potentially share technical assistance in those situations.

The United States was previously part of GOARN, but the federal government stopped participating after it terminated its membership in WHO in January 2026.

Colorado's involvement in the network makes it easier for CDPHE to understand emerging disease threats that could arrive in the state, such as via travelers coming through Denver International Airport.