World Organization of Family Doctors

Wonca
World family doctors. Caring for people.

Statement on Health Emergencies

79th World Health Assembly

18–23 May 2026

Agenda Item 13.2 — Health Emergencies

The frontline of any health emergency is not only at a hospital; it is also at local family practices. Vertical emergency programs will collapse if the horizontal foundation of Primary Health Care is weak.

To bridge global policy and the local consultation room, the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) calls for:

- **Investment** in primary care as the early-warning system including interoperable digital health systems so family doctors' real-time clinical data triggers national public health alerts.
- **Preparedness** of the primary care workforce, through training and support in outbreak detection and emergency response.
- **Integration** of primary care continuity into emergency frameworks, to prevent the secondary wave of unmanaged chronic conditions that follows every crisis.

Global health security is only as strong as primary health care, and only as durable as the trust family doctors hold