



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York

Field Epi 201: Practical Skills in Outbreak Investigation

Expanding upon skills gained in the *Field Epi 101: Outbreak Investigation* course, this is a five-week, on-line course for front line staff in local health departments, including those in regional offices. Experienced public health nurse, Michelle Cravetz, will mentor the on-line course. The course will consist of on-line webinars (live and recorded), discussion forums, and online activities. Students will be expected and encouraged to dialogue with fellow classmates through online discussion boards and webinars. The course will be based on Tier 1 competencies for epidemiology as established by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.

Students should expect to spend roughly 1 – 2 hours a week working on the course. CME, CNE and CHES hours will be provided.

Goal: To provide front line LHD staff with the basic skills to perform and conduct a small localized outbreak investigation.

Week:	Objectives covered:	Activity:
1 - Communication, Cases & Confirmation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply the steps and processes in an outbreak investigation Understand and assess their individual role as part of the outbreak team Explain the importance of effective communication at each level of an investigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live 1 hour webinar, Monday, November 14th 9:30 to 10.45am. <u>This webinar is mandatory.</u> Online activities
2 - Gathering Evidence: Techniques, Instruments & Confidentiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differentiate the various aspects of confidentiality and apply to the disease control situation Locate, refine (if necessary) and employ a questionnaire Conduct an effective interview 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-study Online activities
3 - Using Line Lists and Epi Curves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpret an Epi Curve Analyze a 2 x 2 table Generate a realistic hypothesis on disease causation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live 1 hour webinar, Monday, November 28th 9:30 to 10:30 am. <i>(You may view the recorded version if unable to attend live.)</i> Online activities
4 - Intervening to Control Outbreaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design needed interventions to slow or stop the spread of disease Define cultural, political, and social frameworks for interventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-study Online activities
5 - Communicating the Process and Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a standard epi report Risk communication – working with the media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live 1 hour webinar, Monday, December 12th from 9:30 to 10:30 am <i>(You may view the recorded version if unable to attend live.)</i> Online activities