

Introduction to Public Health Surveillance

INTENDED AUDIENCE

Public health practitioners, especially those at the state or local levels, with little to no experience in epidemiology or surveillance.

FORMAT

Web-based, Flash presentation. This online module has an audio narration and interactive exercises and scenarios.

ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE

This module takes approximately one hour to complete.

LEAD COURSE DEVELOPER

James L. Gale, MD, MS
Professor Emeritus of Epidemiology
Northwest Center for Public Health Practice
School of Public Health and Community
Medicine
University of Washington

CO-SPONSOR

This course is co-sponsored by the University of Washington School of Nursing, an accredited provider of continuing nursing education (CNE) by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Participants who successfully complete the course are eligible to receive 1.5 CNE contact hours (1.5 clock hours).

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See <http://www.nwcphp.org/introphsurv>

If you experience any difficulties or have questions, please contact the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice.



Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

University of Washington
School of Public Health & Community Medicine
www.nwcphp.org • 206.685.1130
nwcphp@u.washington.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This Web-based course provides an introduction to public health surveillance concepts and principles for public health workers who have no prior training in epidemiology. The course gives an overview of surveillance systems in local, state, and national public health practice. Topics covered include the history and legal basis for surveillance, definition and types of surveillance, attributes and limitations of surveillance systems, and examples of national and state systems. No prerequisite knowledge or skills are necessary.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Define public health surveillance
- Describe different types of surveillance systems
- List two examples of surveillance systems
- Discuss the legal basis for disease reporting
- List the steps in establishing a surveillance system
- Explain the process for evaluating a surveillance system

COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED

This module provides an awareness level training in the following epidemiology competency and subcompetencies developed by the University of Washington (www.nwcphp.org/epi/competencies).

Competency	Subcompetency
Define, describe, interpret, and install public health surveillance systems (Competency 4)	A. Define surveillance and describe its use in public health
	C. Recognize steps in establishing surveillance systems
	E. Interpret surveillance data analyses
	F. Evaluate surveillance systems

About the Course Developer

Dr. Jim Gale is professor emeritus in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine. He has spent 12 years as a local health officer in Kittitas County, Washington, where he used surveillance while investigating several foodborne outbreaks. Dr. Gale also used surveillance as a US Public Health Service Epidemic Intelligence Service officer and as a research tool in evaluating vaccine efficacy in Taiwan. He has evaluated the uses of national surveillance data at 15 local and state health jurisdictions in the western United States.