



FOCUS on Field Epidemiology

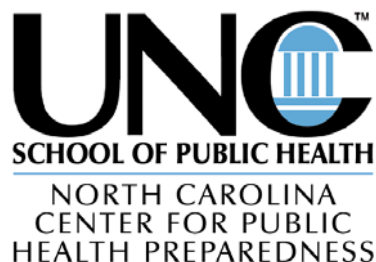
ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY OF AN OUTBREAK TEAM: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What expertise to form an outbreak team exists in your health department? Take a brief inventory of personnel and equipment for your outbreak team. Who would be the leader? Is this formalized through an action plan or would the team be formed as the need arises?

Discussion cues: Think back to the last outbreak investigation in your county. Conducting a critical review of this outbreak may help in identifying the Epi team in your county or region and developing a plan for outbreak investigations. Having a plan in place may save time the next time you recognize a public health problem.

2. Have you ever worked on an outbreak investigation with people outside your health department (e.g. state or federal public health officials)? If so, which aspects of this collaboration worked well and which could be improved in the future? Was communication a problem?

Discussion cues: Increasingly, outbreak investigations are multi-jurisdictional events that require collaboration among multiple counties or states. Consider providing written feedback to agencies on the positive or negative aspects of past collaborations in order to do better next time.



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