

Public Health Law 101: Law of Public Health Surveillance, Investigations and Emergencies

Satellite Conference and Live Webcast
Tuesday, March 10, 2009 • 9:00-10:30 a.m. (Central Time)
10:00-11:30 a.m. (Eastern) • 8:00-9:30 a.m. (Mountain) • 7:00-8:30 a.m. (Pacific)

An emerging disease is sweeping through cities mainly affecting children. The disease has a rapid onset, lasts two weeks and has a 10% mortality rate. Can the health officer set up a reporting system without going to the legislature? When the disease is found to be carried by ticks on domestic dogs, does the health officer have the power to seize and destroy the suspected animals? Can the federal government investigate this as a possible bioterrorism event?

For hundreds of years, laws have been created and used to define the parameters of what people and organizations can and can not do. Often times though, people don't truly familiarize themselves with the various laws and procedures until it's too late – a phrase most health professionals deem unacceptable. In the last 20 years public health agencies have been brushing up on their "legal preparedness," realizing the essential role law plays in protecting the public's health. The answer to the question, "Who can provide supplies, surveillance or control during an outbreak," need to be known now, not later.

This program is the first of three that will explore the legal issues involved in public health epidemiological interventions. What are the laws? What can you, as a public health professional, legally do to help protect the public's health during a crisis? How do you get assistance and who do you turn to when it's needed? Those are just a few questions we should all know the answers to, because at this point it's not a matter of IF a disease outbreak will happen, but when.

The core material to be presented in these three programs has been adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recently released program: *Public Health Law 101: A Fundamental Course for Public Health Practitioners*. These three programs are being produced for Alabama professionals and are specific to Alabama laws and regulations. Other participants are invited to view these programs, knowing the laws of their respective jurisdictions would apply.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the legal authority for information gathering during public health surveillance and investigation activities.
2. Be familiar with legal issues in public health interventions.
3. Recognize the legal authority for interventions in public health emergencies.

FACULTY:

John R. Wible
General Counsel
Alabama Department of Public Health

CONFERENCE DETAILS:

Target Audience: State and local epidemiologists, environmentalists, surveillance nurses, lawyers, veterinarians, emergency management professionals, and other allied research analysts who work in field epidemiological investigations.

Registration: www.adph.org/alphntn

Cost: There is no cost to view.

Continuing Education: None for this program.

Technical Information: To receive complete technical information you must register at www.adph.org/alphntn

Satellite - Live satellite conference on C band (analog).

Webcast - Live webcast with RealPlayer or Windows Media Player. Be sure to test your computer with the "test connection link" at www.adph.org/alphntn

Audio - Call in toll-free to listen over your phone. 1-866-941-6093

On Demand - Available 2-3 business days after the live broadcast from the On Demand page of our website.

Conference Materials: Posted on our website approximately one week before the program for registered participants.

Questions For Faculty: Email: alphntnquestions@adph.state.al.us • Fax: 334-206-5640.

Conference Details Questions: Call: 334-206-5618 | Email: alphntn@adph.state.al.us

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

Public Health Law 101: Privacy and Confidentiality
Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Public Health Law 101: Infectious Diseases
Tuesday, September 8, 2009