

Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health
The Alabama Department of Public Health is a partner of the Public Health Training Network

Public Health Law 101: Privacy and Confidentiality

On Demand Program
September 2009

Available on www.adph.org/alphn

As we all know, there is such a thing as too much information, so during a public health crisis – exactly what information DOES the public need to know? It's a topic that's been wrestled with recently in reporting confirmed cases of novel H1N1 Influenza in Alabama. Legally, what can be publicly reported, what should never be reported and what are the consequences for breaching privacy and confidentiality rules? But, perhaps more importantly, why are these protections in place?

This program is the second, in a series of three, exploring the legal issues involved in public health epidemiological interventions. The core material 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.

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PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the basic principles of health information privacy, confidentiality, and security.
2. Attain some basic familiarity with the universe of legal protections for the privacy and confidentiality of health data.
3. Gain a basic understanding of the scope, structure, and implementation of the HIPAA Privacy Rule.
4. Be able to discuss the impact of the HIPAA Privacy Rule on public health agencies.
5. Understand the distinctions between public health practice and public health research for the purposes of applying privacy laws and policies.

The content of this program is based on the policies and procedures of the Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama and federal statutes, rules, regulations, and guidelines. Viewers not employed by the ADPH should always check to clarify whether the content is accurate according to the statutes, regulations, and policies of their jurisdiction and agency.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

Program Produced: August 2009

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: Available at www.adph.org/alphn on the On Demand Page. (Select On Demand from side menu and then Complete Chronological List)

Cost: There is no cost to view.

Continuing Education: None for this program.

Program Materials: Posted on our website for program participants.

Technical Questions: Call: 334-206-5618 | Email: alphn@adph.state.al.us

Other Programs of Interest:

Public Health Law 101: Law of Public Health Surveillance, Investigations, and Emergencies. Available Now On Demand.

Public Health Law 101: Infectious Diseases Available: To be announced

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