

Welcome and Introduction to Communicable Disease Surveillance
And Investigation in North Carolina
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The Technical Assistance and Training Program (TATP) of the Medical Consultation Unit located within the Communicable Disease Branch welcomes you as a course participant. I am Jodi Reber, one of the communicable disease nurse consultants with the NC Division of Public Health. I am also serving as the course coordinator. A team of epidemiologists, nurses, and physicians in the Communicable Disease Branch have been offering this course since 2004. As with many of our public health programs our partners have changed through the years. Initially the course was designed and launched with the help of UNC's Center for Public Health Preparedness and Response, and the Office of Continuing Education. As you heard earlier, this edition of the course is the result of a partnership between the Communicable Disease Branch and Wake AHEC. We are grateful for funding provided by the CDC as we strive to build and maintain the public health infrastructure in North Carolina.

This course has been re-structured in 2014 in response to the changing needs of our customers. I hope that you will find the lectures recorded now as webinars easier to access and easier to share with your staff locally and from any location with internet access.

The North Carolina Consolidated Agreement and Agreement Addenda # 510 require that every public health nurse with responsibility for communicable disease surveillance and investigation complete the *Introduction to Communicable Disease Surveillance and Investigation in North Carolina* course. The public health nurse should complete the course within one year of assuming responsibility for communicable disease investigations. The course is offered by the Technical Assistance and Training Program of the Communicable Disease Branch. Attendance and participation in the Annual Communicable Disease conference and at least one regional workshop is a required component of the course.

The introductory course has 3 modules: 1) the didactic component provided via these webinars, 2) regional trainings, and 3) the Annual CD Conference. In addition, a face-to-face orientation is provided for every new CD nurse by a regional nurse consultant. You do not need to complete the modules in any particular order.

Prior to starting the course you will need to complete the course Pre-test. If for some reason you have not done so yet, please refer to the course announcement and use the URL provided to take the test hosted by Survey Monkey. The link can also be found on our website: <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/cd/training.html> The pre-test is required and will serve as the course registration. Feel free to use any resources to complete it other than your co-workers, but please don't spend more than 1 hour on it. It is designed to help you identify some of your own knowledge gaps.

There are 14 units with a total of thirty-three lectures which have been recorded in webinar format for this course. Some are very short; however each subject is vital to the work of the CD nurse. The course is designed to be completed sequentially. There are 2 or 3 "knowledge check" questions from each lecture that will be presented at the end of each unit. You will need to complete the "knowledge checks" before advancing to the next unit of lectures. In addition to the webinars, you can download the power point

presentations and the accompanying scripts to enhance your learning or if you want them for future reference. There are also optional readings and activities for each lecture all posted on our website: <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/cd/training.html>

After the last lecture in Unit 14 you will be directed to a link to take the course Post-Test and to complete the course evaluation. A score of 80 or higher is required to pass the course. Again, you may use any resources with the exception of others to complete the test. A certificate for 14 contact hours will be sent after completion of Module 1 and successful completion of the post-test. No partial credit will be awarded.

Module 2 allows you to receive training locally and/or regionally based upon your specific training needs. You are only required to attend 1 regional training or meeting. Module 3 requires you to participate with your peers in current training at the Annual CD Conference. The First Annual CD Conference was held in July, 2010, with over 200 participants. The last conference had over 300 participants.

I know that you are anxious to get started. Please know that we are here to serve you and we will do our very best to give you the information you need and the opportunity to share best practices with us and your peers in other counties. Enjoy the course! Thank you.