



UNC

GILLINGS SCHOOL OF  
GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

# Introduction to Tabletop Exercises: *Case investigation and outbreak response resources*

*Rachel Wilfert, MD, MPH, CPH  
Manager, Training & Technical Assistance  
NC Institute for Public Health*



# Learning Objectives

- Describe training programs at NC Institute for Public Health
- List resources for building skills in case investigation and outbreak response
- Choose specific programs to meet targeted individual and/or agency workforce development needs



# A bit of background.....

- North Carolina Institute for Public Health
  - Service and outreach arm of the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health
  - Provides training, technical assistance, practice-based research
  - Serves multiple areas of public health practice in NC and beyond



# NCIPH Training Programs

- Short just-in-time trainings through graduate-level certificates
- One-time offerings through long-standing initiatives
- Face-to-face, distance, and blended programs
- Instructor-led, self-guided



# Face-to-Face Programs

- Introduction to Public Health Nursing
- Management and Supervision for Public Health Professionals
- NC Boards of Health Training
- Regional trainings for child health nurses
- School Nurse Conference
- Occupational safety and health courses



# Blended Learning Programs

- Physical Assessment of Adults
- STD Nurse Clinician Training
- Child Health Training Program
  
- Online course work + face-to-face skill-building session + practicum

*(Communicable Disease Nurse Course)*



# Online Courses

- Pediatric Nutrition Course
- Maternal Nutrition and Wellness
- Breastfeeding Supplies Competency

## **OTHER TRAINING TOOLS**

- NCIPH Training Website
- Training packages & toolkits



# Training Packages

- Train-the-trainer tools
- Each program has:
  - Slide presentations with detailed speaker's notes
  - Guided discussion questions and/or activities
  - Facilitator's guide
  - Evaluation instruments including pre-/post-tests and post-training evaluations





# I is for Investigation

- Designed to introduce the concepts of an outbreak investigation
- 7-part series
- Guidebook + CD-ROM

*Also online as self-paced modules*



*I is for Investigation*

Outbreak investigation methods  
from mystery to mastery



# I is for Investigation

- 7 sessions, each 35-50 minutes
  - Recognizing an Outbreak
  - Study Design
  - Designing Questionnaires
  - Interviewing Techniques
  - Analyzing Data
  - Writing an Outbreak Report
  - Risk and Crisis Communication



*I is for  
Investigation*



# I is for Investigation

- Each session contains:
  - Session Overview
  - Pre-test
  - PowerPoint Slides
  - Optional Discussion Guide
  - Handouts
  - Post-test
  - Answer Key
  - Session Evaluation

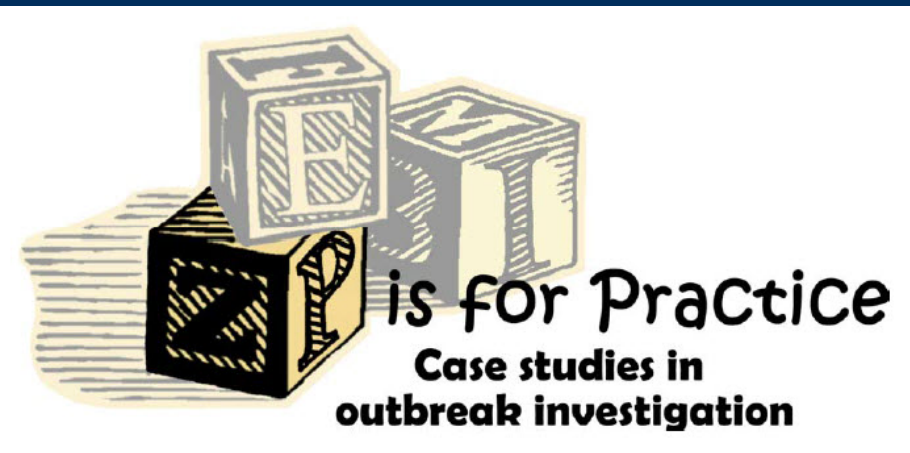


*I is for  
Investigation*



# P is for Practice

- Case study-based training series to practice basic epidemiology skills
- 6 different outbreaks
- Guidebook + CD-ROM





# P is for Practice

- Case studies are designed as group activities
- Facilitator's version with suggested responses + participant version
- Each case study is ~ 90 minutes





# P is for Practice

- Respiratory disease outbreak in an evacuation center following a hurricane
- Mercury poisoning from a cosmetic cream
- Hepatitis B outbreak in a nursing home
- Influenza A, H2N2 outbreak in a laboratory
- Pandemic influenza outbreak in a school setting
- *P. aeruginosa* outbreak in a healthcare setting





# ICS in Action: Using the Incident Command System in Public Health Outbreak Investigations

- Designed to help integrate use of ICS into investigation of a disease outbreak
- Intended as a public health supplement to required FEMA ICS courses
  - Suggested prerequisites:  
ICS 100, 200, 700, 300

## ***ICS In Action***

Using the Incident Command  
System in Public Health  
Outbreak Investigations



# ICS in Action

- Video program (DVD) + Workbook
- Didactic material plus activities
- 2 ½ hour program
- Uses interview footage with NC public health professionals

*Co-authored by PHRST 6*

## ***ICS In Action***

Using the Incident Command  
System in Public Health  
Outbreak Investigations





# ICS in Action

- *Module 1* - provides a review of core ICS concepts plus an example of ICS as it was used by local health departments during an outbreak of gastrointestinal illness.
- *Module 2* - case study scenario using ICS during a hypothetical disease outbreak investigation (GI illness on college campus)

## ***ICS In Action***

Using the Incident Command  
System in Public Health  
Outbreak Investigations



# NC Epi Teams Training Curriculum

- 2 introductory modules
  - Introduction to Epi Teams
  - Team-building exercise
- 6 case studies
  - Based on actual outbreaks
  - Built around applied epi competencies (AECs)
- Posted online for download

**North Carolina Epi Teams  
Training Curriculum**



# NC Epi Teams Training Curriculum

- Case studies are designed for Epi Teams to complete as a group
- Facilitator's version with suggested responses + participant version
- Each case study is ~ 90 minutes
- Some prerequisites recommended for staff with no prior outbreak investigation experience



# NC Epi Teams Training Curriculum

- Gastrointestinal illness on a college campus
- Measles in a recent immigrant
- Outbreak at a hotel convention
- Storm-related water contamination
- Hepatitis A cluster with unknown source
- Elemental mercury spill

# In Closing:

- Many free outbreak investigation resources available from NCIPH
- Facilitation assistance available for Epi Team trainings (+ others) through NCIPH- NC AHEC collaboration
  - Contact NCIPH or your local AHEC
- Some programs come with CE credit (nursing contact hours and/or REHS credit)



# Accessing Resources

- Copies at UNC exhibit table or sign up to have programs mailed
- Go to <http://sph.unc.edu/nciph/training/>
  - Click on “Training Packages”
  - Download or request a copy
- Email [nciph@unc.edu](mailto:nciph@unc.edu)



UNC

GILLINGS SCHOOL OF  
GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Questions?



UNC

GILLINGS SCHOOL OF  
GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

## Contact Information:

Rachel A. Wilfert, MD, MPH, CPH  
Manager, Training and Technical Assistance

NC Institute for Public Health  
Gillings School of Global Public Health  
919-966-4085  
[rachel.wilfert@unc.edu](mailto:rachel.wilfert@unc.edu)  
[sph.unc.edu/nciph](http://sph.unc.edu/nciph)