

# North Carolina Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NC EDSS)

## What is NC EDSS?

NC EDSS, or the North Carolina Electronic Disease Surveillance System, is a component of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) initiative to move states to web-based surveillance and reporting systems. NC EDSS is also part of the Public Health Information Network (PHIN). NC Division of Public Health (DPH) is customizing a system developed by Consilience Software Inc.

NC EDSS represents a major change in the way local health departments and the Division of Public Health (DPH) exchange and report data. NC EDSS will be used by DPH, 86 local health departments (LHDs), 8 HIV/STD Regional Offices, and the Department of Environment Health and Natural Resources (DENR).

The federal Preparedness Grant & Pandemic Flu Supplement is providing funding for approximately 95% of the development costs.

## Why does NC public health need this system?

- Paper reporting from LHDs to DPH is inefficient
- Current databases are not web-based
- LHDs have no ready access to their data
- NC EDSS increases data sharing among LHDs
- New system has statewide outbreak management & contact tracing capability
- System provides better tracking of lab results and stores lab data with case data
- NC EDSS creates centralized repository of person-based public health data
- Analysis of morbidity patterns across diseases possible with electronic system
- Co-morbidity of specific patients (e.g., HIV/TB, Syphilis/Hepatitis B) can be tracked with NC EDSS

## What Communicable Disease Databases will NC EDSS replace?

- TIMS - Tuberculosis
- NETSS - General CD + VPD
- STD\*MIS - STD
- HARS - HIV
- Perinatal Hepatitis B Database

## What diseases are phased into NC EDSS and when?

### 2007

TB, LTBI, TST in 14 highest-morbidity LHDs

### 2008

TB, LTBI, TST in remaining LHDs  
General communicable diseases - all LHDs  
Vaccine-preventable diseases - all LHDs  
Chlamydia & Gonorrhea - all LHDs

### Late 2009

HIV & Syphilis – HIV Regional Offices only

**What are the major changes in reporting for communicable diseases (including sexually transmitted and vaccine preventable diseases)?**

Before NC EDSS	NC EDSS
Health Care Provider reports disease via morbidity cards/supplemental surveillance forms as required to local health department	<p>Same process - different look!</p> <p>Morbidity cards are now 8.5 x 11" and are re-named Disease Report Forms, Part 1</p> <p>Most diseases have a supplemental surveillance form, re-named Disease Report Form, Part 2</p>
Labs send paper reports to DPH and/or local health departments	<p>Same process – different method!</p> <p>Gradual change, one lab at a time</p> <p>Labs will report electronically to NC EDSS</p>
Local health departments send morbidity cards & surveillance forms to DPH	<p>No cards/forms to DPH!</p> <p>Transfer of all information will be electronic</p>
DPH enters local health department data into multiple different databases	Local health departments enter data directly into single database
Local health departments must request reports of their data from DPH or keep separate database	Local health departments have access to their data in pre-established reports

**Highlights of System Features**

- Case reporting
- Contact tracing
- Outbreak management
- Automatic receipt of laboratory reports
- Electronic form letter generation
- Attach any type of file to case report
- Pre-set statistical reports
- Easy export capability
- Off-line use of system for fieldwork
- Mapping - Geographic Information System (GIS)
- Access to DPHs historical data (+/- 15 yrs)
- Ability to share or transfer cases among LHDs or with DPH
- Security role-based and disease-based

**NC EDSS Contact Information**

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