

Epi Rapid Response Team Program Membership and Training Requirements

Epi Rapid Response Team Program Purpose:

To develop and/or improve the knowledge, skills, and abilities of public health professionals to conduct outbreak and other public health investigations and to assist local, regional, state, and national epidemiology staff in emergency public health investigations as members of Epidemiology Rapid Response Teams (ERRT).

Program Goals:

- To help participants gain, increase, and improve their knowledge and skills in concepts and practices associated with responding to a case/cluster/outbreak investigation.
- To increase the number of public health professionals capable of participating on a strike team in an outbreak investigation, terrorism event or other public health emergency.
- To improve the capability of local health departments to respond to and investigate urgent public health events i.e. outbreaks, terrorist events, etc.

Membership Requirements:

Each member of a local health department Epi Rapid Response Team is required to:

- Have supervisor and LHD Director approval and submit official Approval Sheet;
- Attend an ERRT Beginner's Training Session (usually 2 days);
- Attend the Application Exercise Day if in the first year as an ERRT member;
- Attend, as a refresher, an Application Exercise Day once every four years;
- Complete at least four hours (contact hours) of approved continuing education annually (see below);
- Attend at least two ERRT Annual Conferences out of every four years.

Each member is also encouraged to:

- Assist in at least one public health investigation (local, district, or state) per year;
- Write up and submit an investigation report for each investigation when complete;
- Present a public health investigation at the Annual ERRT Conference;
- Engage in additional continuing education when possible to enhance their ability to respond to public health emergencies;
- Publish findings of noteworthy investigations in CDC's MMWR and peer-reviewed journals when applicable.

Training:

Pre-requisite for ERRT Training

- Membership or planned membership on ERRT.
- Agreement from LHD management to allow use of employee on ERRT in situations of need.

Target Audience

Public health professionals who are new or existing members of an ERRT that could be called upon in response to a public health threat(s).

ERRT Trainings:

- **Beginner's Training:** Two days of on-site training for new members will be offered each year. This training is focused on applied and practical epidemiologic and public health-related skills, including the ten steps of an outbreak investigation, surveillance, basic epidemiologic methods, use of computers in epi investigation, overview of common infectious diseases in Kentucky, surveying, and sampling. Other topics may be included.
- **Application Exercise Day:** A third day of training will be offered at the time of the Beginner's Training which will include 1-2 exercises that require participants to apply the knowledge, and practice the skills learned in the basic training. This session will also be open to previously-trained ERRT members as refresher course for ERRT members who need to enhance their skills. All ERRT members are required to attend at least one Application Exercise Day every four years.
- **Continuing Education:** A minimum of 4 hours of continuing education relevant to ERRT will be completed annually after the initial on-site training. Acceptable continuing education includes courses listed below. Other applicable trainings will be actively considered by the ERRT Steering Committee for ERRT CE approval, so ERRT members are encouraged to submit possibilities. Please submit these requests to the KDPH ERRT Program Coordinator, T.J. Sugg (tennis.sugg@ky.gov).

Continuing Education:

Online Training Modules

- UNC Center for Public Health Preparedness:
 - FOCUS on Field Epidemiology Modules:
http://cphp.sph.unc.edu/training/training_list/?mode=view_subcat_detail&subcat_id=277
 - "E" is for Epidemiology Modules:
http://cphp.sph.unc.edu/training/training_list/?mode=view_subcat_detail&subcat_id=278
 - "I" is for Investigation Modules:
http://cphp.sph.unc.edu/training/training_list/?mode=view_subcat_detail&subcat_id=279

Courses Approved by ERRT Steering Committee to Date for 2013

- TB Program Management Course – SNTC
- Comprehensive Clinical TB Course – SNTC
- Lab Specimen Packaging and Shipping – KDPH DLS
- 18th Annual Environmental Health Symposium – EKU, March 28, 2013
- FEMA Course – Team Approach to Foodborne Outbreak Response
- 2013 KPHA Presentations:
 - Kentucky Epidemiology in Action
 - The Role of the Public Health Nurse in Outbreak Management of Infectious Diseases
 - CASPER – Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response
- Public Health Nursing ITV Meetings (June 20, August 15, October 17, and December 19)
- BECKY Workforce Development Seminars
 - Survey and Questionnaire Development (August 27)
 - Interviewing Techniques (Date TBD)
 - Food Safety/Security (Date TBD)
- Quarterly Reportable Disease Refresher (September and December)