Excel 2007 Epi Curve Directions

Adapted from UNC's FOCUS on Field Epidemiology

1. Open Excel
2. List the onset of illness date in first column, which is A. Rt. Click on A, then format cells to choose date or date and time if needed. Be sure to leave room for endemic levels of disease in the community or to show visually when the outbreak starts.
   a. Expression of time in this column needs to be in intervals of ¼ the incubation period. For example norovirus has an average incubation period of 24-48 hours. So ¼ of the average is 9 hours. (this can range from 1/8 -1/3) However, 8 hours may be more visually appealing.
3. List the number of cases in the second column, which is B.
4. Highlight both columns (A&B) without the titles
5. Click the Insert tab
6. Click on Column tab
7. Choose the first choice (chart should pop up)
8. Go to the Layout tab
9. Click on Axis titles
   a. The x axis is usually labeled "time of onset" or "date of onset" and it is horizontal
   b. The y axis is usually labeled "number of cases" and it is vertical
10. Click on a colored column in the histogram
11. Click on the Format tab
12. Choose Format Selection on the left
13. Move the gap width to "No gap"
14. Right click on the legend or "Series 1" and delete this
15. Save the Excel file. Place the epi curve in the Word document of your Outbreak Report.