

KDHE Field Epidemiology Services Program Support Activities

- Assist/support LHDs in responding to complex or unusual infectious disease inquiries and public health consultations.
- Provide technical assistance to LHDs for investigation of complex or unusual infectious disease cases and contacts, including if such a disease report constitutes a case and provide guidance on how to conduct that investigation. Please note our field epidemiologists are not meant to replace the Epidemiology Hotline and more timely/urgent matters and general questions should still go to the hotline.
- Enhance the recognition, reporting and investigation of outbreaks and actively support LHD management of outbreaks. For large outbreaks this may include engaging appropriate partners and stakeholders, development and strengthening of collaborations, and development of targeted communication messages for specific groups.
- Lead or assist in complex or more unique infectious disease outbreak investigations upon LHD request, as well as develop and implement appropriate disease control measures.
- Provide information and updates to LHDs on infectious disease guidance through webinars and/or written communications.
- Provide training and education for LHD staff on disease surveillance, reporting, and prevention and control through in-person meetings, webinars, or recorded trainings.
- Serve as a liaison between KDHE and LHDs to enhance information sharing and situational awareness and foster a collaborative environment between LHDs and local and state stakeholders.
- Engage with LHDs and local health partners through outreach, by sharing local, regional, and state level data, and through public health consultation and education as needed.
- Organize regular regional meetings with LHDs, field epidemiologists, public health nurses, and KDHE program staff to sustain communication and provide educational and training opportunities.
- Conduct annual individual county needs assessments and utilize results to identify further areas for field epi support and training.
- Monitor disease incidence in their region to develop and analyze statistical data to reduce and prevent the spread of infectious disease and determine at risk populations.
- Provide data analysis support to LHDs by responding to requests for surveillance data. Field epis will generate specific surveillance reports for individual counties and the region on a regular and as needed basis.