



Epi-X: Secure Public Health Communications

GLBHI Conference
June 15, 2007



Agenda



- **Introduction**
- Users
- Reports
- Training
- Notification Proficiency Testing (NPT)
- Issues



Mission

get **Epi·X**

To provide secure, moderated communications for public health officials to report and discuss disease outbreaks and other acute health events including terrorism



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To provide secure, moderated **communications** for public health officials to report and discuss disease outbreaks and other acute health events including terrorism



Partners



- State and local health departments
- **AAPCC** – American Association of Poison Control Centers
- **APHL** – Association of Public Health Laboratories
- **ASTHO** – Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- **CSTE** – Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
- **NACCHO** – National Association of County and City Health Officials
- **NASPHV** – National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians



Federal Partners



- DoD
- DoS
- FDA
- HHS
- USDA
- DHS
- PHS Regional Health Administrator
- CDC Regional Response Coordinators



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Users

get **Epi-X**

- Authorized
- Trained on security responsibilities
- Sign the User Agreement
- Reauthorized quarterly
- Tested
- Identified in the system



Access Levels



- No public access to secure site
- *Forum only*
 - Participate in discussions in *Epi-X Forum*
- Readers
 - Read and comment on reports
- Contributors
 - Submit new reports, read and comment on existing reports
- *Epi-X Editors*
 - Moderate submitted reports
 - Medical Epidemiologist available 24/7



Total Number of Users



• <i>Epi-X</i>		4697
• Reader	3370	
• Contributor	1290	
• Other	36	
• <i>Forum Only</i>		145
• TOTAL		4842



Users Identified By



- Public Health Role
- Employer Type
- State or Country
- Public Health Responsibility

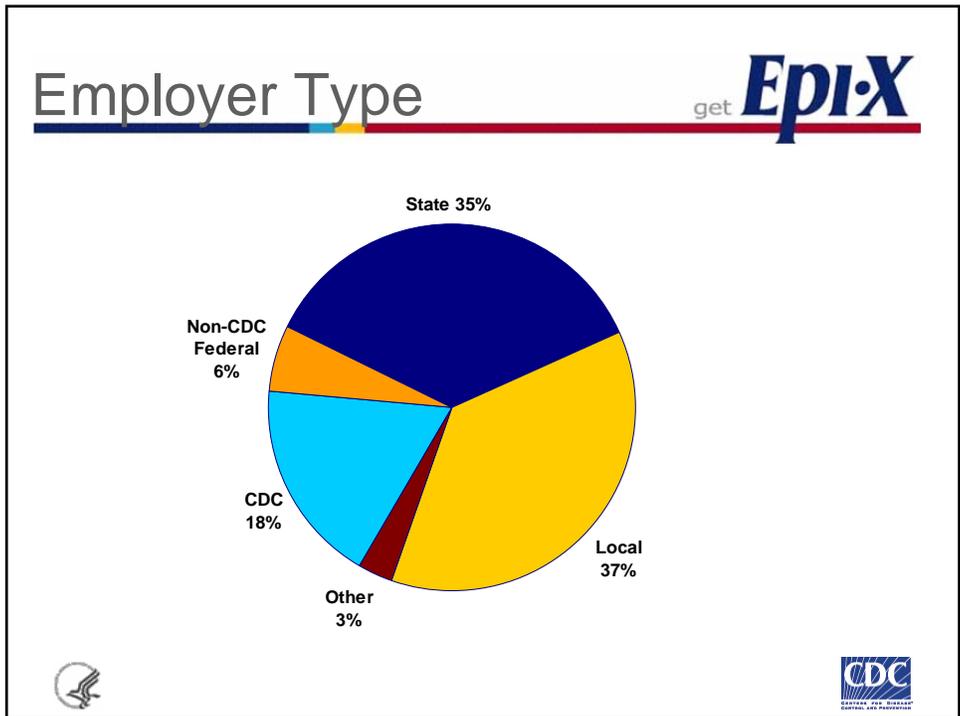
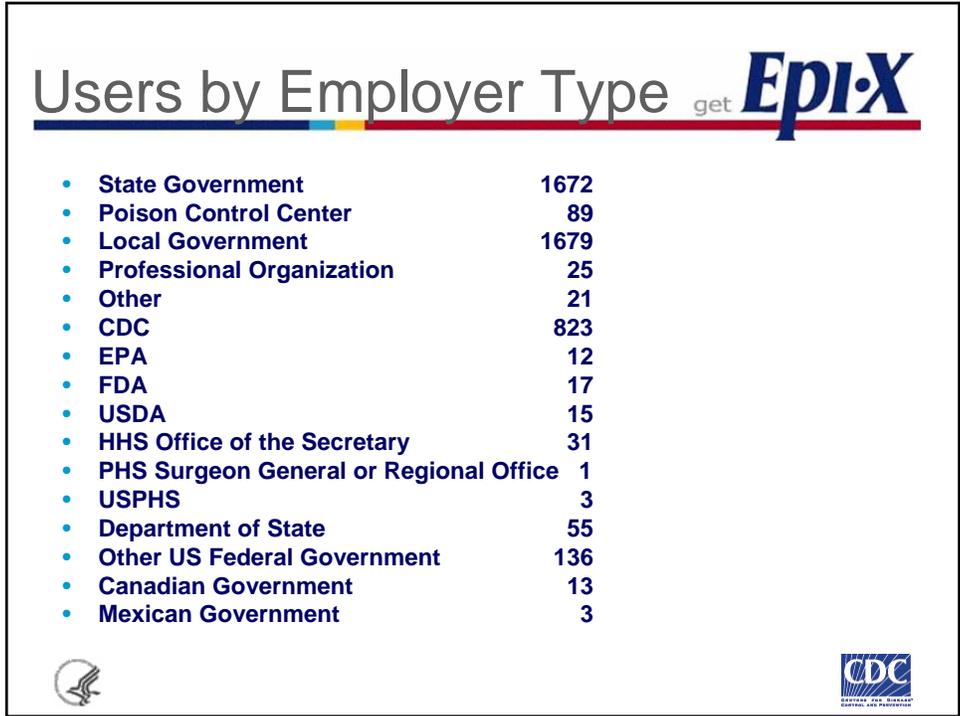


Public Health Role



- | | |
|--|-----|
| • State or Territorial Epidemiologist | 92 |
| • State or Territorial Public Health Laboratory Director | 61 |
| • State or Territorial Public Health Officer | 44 |
| • State or Territorial Public Health Veterinarian | 48 |
| • State or Territorial Terrorism Responder / Coord. | 78 |
| • Poison Control Center Director | 89 |
| • HAN Coordinator | 66 |
| • City, County, or Regional Health Officer | 386 |
| • EIS Officer or Supervisor | 170 |
| • Preventive Medicine Resident | 17 |
| • Career Epidemiology Field Officer | 24 |
| • CDC Emergency Operations | 23 |
| • CDC Office of the Director | 5 |
| • CDC CIO Director's Office | 4 |





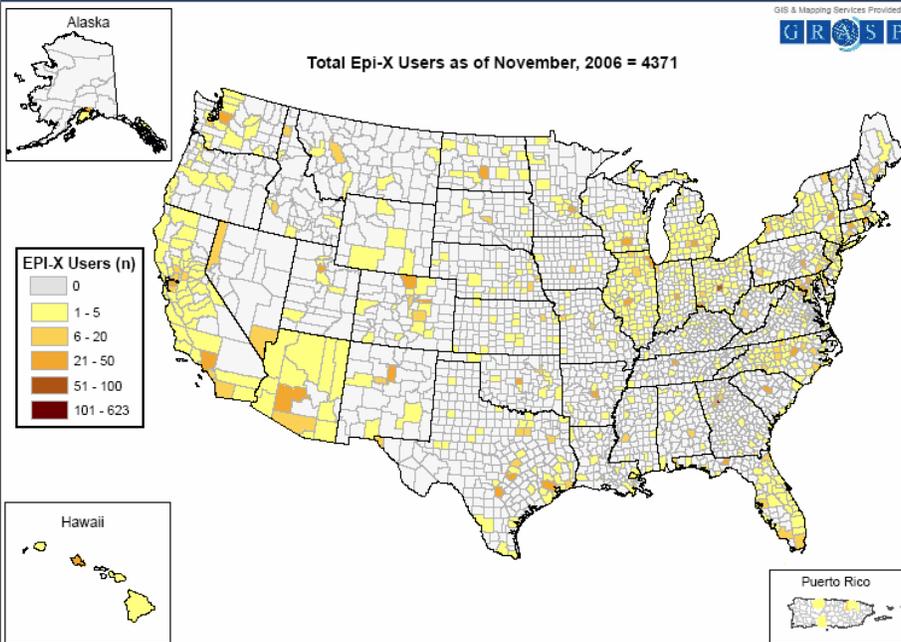
PH Responsibility



- **Epidemiologist** 1697
- **Program Administrator** 910
- **Clinician** 436
- **Laboratory Specialist** 239
- **Program Operations Staff** 300
- **Environmental Health Specialist** 177
- **Veterinarian** 74
- **Information Technology Specialist** 120
- **Statistician** 47
- **Pharmacologist** 14



Epi-X Users by County November 2006



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Epi-X The Epidemic Information Exchange

[Home](#) | [Search](#) | [My Profile](#) | [My Epi-X](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Help](#) | [Log Out](#)

Epi-X Reports Posted Since 8/31/2004

Title	Location	Category	Posted
<p>Avian Influenza Outbreak -- Vietnam, January 2004 Vietnam is reporting 14 cases of a respiratory disease suspected to be avian influenza. Lab results from 3 of these cases are positive for avian influenza H5N1. Twelve of these patients have died.</p> <p>Add Comments (0)</p>	Other Country	Infectious Disease: Influenza	9/10/2004
<p>Arsenic Exposure at a Chicken Feed Processing Facility NIOSH is investigating potential arsenic exposure in 25 employees who process chicken feed at Ridley, Inc. - Hubbard Foods in Illinois. Environmental samples to be collected this week.</p> <p>Add Comments (0)</p>	IL	Occupational Health Issue	9/10/2004
<p>Possible Radiation Exposure During Renovation of Hot Springs Plumbing -- Arkansas, January 2004 Discarded pipes from renovations at Hot Springs National Park set off radiation detector at the landfill in which they were discarded. NIOSH will investigate for dangerous radiation within the park.</p> <p>Add Comments (0)</p>	AR	Occupational Health Issue	9/10/2004

View

- My Reports
- All Epi-X Reports
- Epi-X Directory
- Epi-X Forum

Contribute

- Standard Report
- Epi-X Alert
- Possible Terrorism Report
- EPI-AID Request
- EPI-AID Trip Report

Visit

- Other Directories
- MMWR
- Terrorism Preparedness
- Homeland Security
- Other Resources
- State and Local Web Sites
- CDC Secure Data Network

The screenshot shows the Epi-X web interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Search, My Profile, My Epi-X, Contact Us, Help, and Log Out. The left sidebar contains a menu with options like My Reports, Epi-X Directory, Epi-X Forum, and Contribute. The main content area displays a report titled "Skin Rash Among High School Wrestlers and Call for Cases -- Utah, 2003". The report includes sections for Access and Notification, Distribution, Brief Summary of Report, Description, Report Category, Date First Case Became Ill or Injured, Cause/Agent, Location, Public Health Actions Taken, Status Information, and Contributor details.

Access and Notification: Make available to all Epi-X users
[Click to view user notifications, if any](#)

Distribution: [Contributor instructions for distributing the report](#) **Release outside of Epi-X as needed**

Brief Summary of Report: Competitors from CO, WY, NV and others may be exposed. Contact Utah DCH at (801) 538-6191 or email C Peterson (capeters@utah.gov), S Mottice (smottice@utah.gov), P Luedtke (pluedtke@utah.gov).

Description: Utah Department of Health and Local Health Districts are investigating skin rashes among high school wrestlers. The rashes are primarily located on the face and were described by a local nurse as "blisterlike, pus-filled sores". Laboratory cultures and sensitivities are pending. Suspect organisms include Staphylococcus and herpes simplex virus (gladiatorum).
Symptomatic athletes have been identified at two Utah schools. Affected athletes participated in at least two large tournaments since December 29, 2003 that included competitors from Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Nevada, and possibly others. Investigation is in progress. Notification of state and local health departments whose athletes may have had shared exposure is in progress.
We are requesting notification of similar cases who might have had exposure to Utah wrestlers. Contact the Utah Department of Health, Office of Epidemiology (801) 538-6191 or email to: EIS Officer Christina Peterson (capeters@utah.gov), Epidemiologist Susan Mottice (smottice@utah.gov), or Deputy State Epidemiologist Pat Luedtke (pluedtke@utah.gov).

Report Category: Infectious Disease: Bacterial, Viral, Possible Infectious - Insufficient Data to Characterize

Date First Case Became Ill or Injured: 01/03/2004

Cause/Agent: Unknown - cultures pending Suspect: Staphylococcus and herpes gladiatorum

Location: Utah

Public Health Actions Taken: Investigation in Progress, Surveillance

Status Information

Contributor: Rose Phillips, DPH
Job Title: Medical Director, Infectious Disease Branch
Comments: 2 [View and Add Comments](#)

This screenshot is identical to the one above, but with a red circle highlighting the "Release outside of Epi-X as needed" link in the Distribution section.

Distribution Options



- **Do not distribute further**
 - For *Epi-X* recipient's eyes only
- **Distribute on a need-to-know basis**
 - Share report with smallest number of colleagues who need it
- **Release outside of *Epi-X* as needed**
 - May print or e-mail copies to persons in the public health community and may post information on their agency's web site.
- **Copyrighted material; do not distribute further**



Epi-X The Epidemic Information Exchange

Epi-X reports posted in your areas of interest in the past 24 hours. To view a specific report, click on its URL.

Influenza Summary Update, Week Ending November 20, 2004 (Week 46)
Two states reported widespread influenza activity, 1 state and New York City, regional activity, 31 states and DC, sporadic activity, and 14 states, no activity. Two states did not report.
<https://epi.cdc.gov/openreport.asp?opt=5617&optype=100&action=3>

WHO Outbreak Verification List (OVL), December 1, 2004
Cholera in Nigeria and Philippines, acute neurological syndrome in India, influenza in Thailand, acute febrile syndrome in Congo, and acute diarrheal syndrome and an unknown syndrome in Philippines.
<https://epi.cdc.gov/openreport.asp?opt=5615&optype=100&action=3>

Influenza Vaccination Among Children During the 2004-05 Season, November 1-13, 2004
The attached report provides information from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, including findings of increased vaccination coverage among high-risk children.
<https://epi.cdc.gov/openreport.asp?opt=5615&optype=100&action=3>

Measles Exposure on a Flight from India to New Jersey to Florida, November 14-22, 2004
A child with measles who was potentially infectious during November 14-22, 2004, traveled from India to US. Flights listed in posting. Report related cases to CDC (804-639-6763 or 770-488-7100).
<https://epi.cdc.gov/openreport.asp?opt=5612&optype=100&action=3>

NIOSH NIE: Concern for Excessive Noise and Crystalline Silica Exposure Among Roofers - Arizona
Employees at three construction sites in Arizona are concerned about excessive exposure to crystalline silica and noise during the sawing/cutting and installation of cement roof tiles.
<https://epi.cdc.gov/openreport.asp?opt=5613&optype=100&action=3>

Media Tracking Report, December 1, 2004

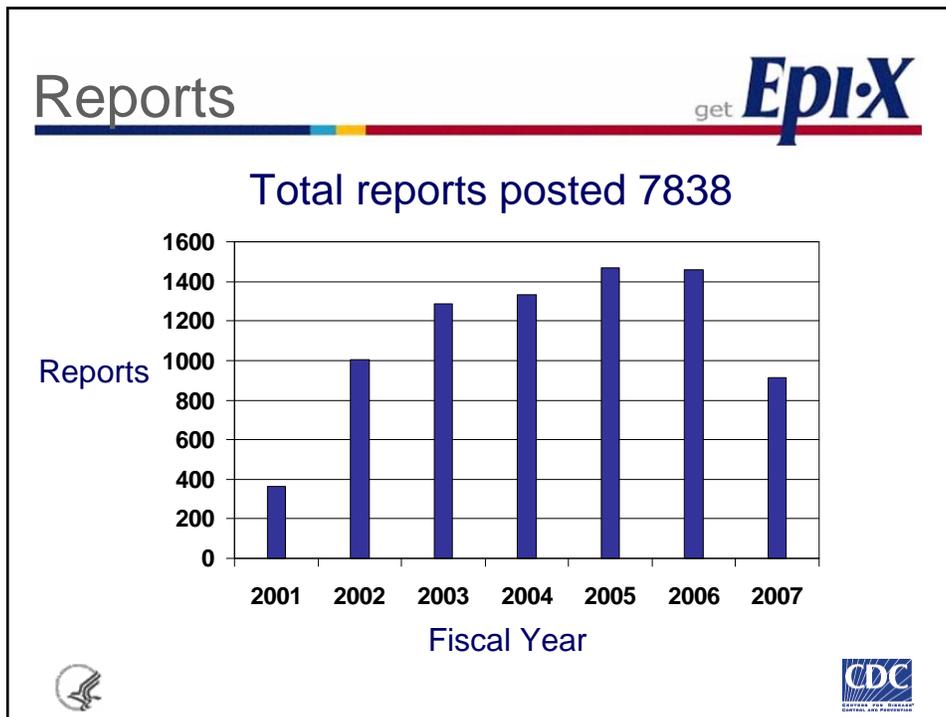
Today's news reports include expansion of influenza vaccine eligibility in MA and MN, HIV in the United States, measles in Kazakhstan, and bacterial infections in U.S. troops in the Middle East.
<https://epi.cdc.gov/openreport.asp?opt=5619&optype=100&action=3>

ABOUT THIS E-MAIL
You have received this message because you are an authorized Epi-X user.
Information in this message must be used only in accordance with the Epi-X User Agreement.

HOW TO CONTACT Epi-X
For digital certificate and other technical issues, contact the Help Desk:
epi_help@cdc.gov
(877) 438-3749

For help with preparing or posting a report, page the Editor-on-Call:
(888) 259-0341

IMPORTANT REMINDERS
Update your contact information: <https://epi.cdc.gov/Profile.asp>
Test your knowledge of Epi-X security: <https://epi.cdc.gov/securitytraining.asp>
Receive this message in Text format: <https://epi.cdc.gov/MyEpi.asp>



- ## Targeted Reports get **Epi-X**
- Targeted reports are used during notification exercises or to limit access to sensitive information
 - Sends immediate notification to one, some, or all users when a report is posted
 - Communicates information about events not thought to be of interest to a broader audience
- 
- 

New Report Types



- State Pandemic Influenza Plans
- DOD Febrile Respiratory Illness reports
- DOD Global Influenza Surveillance
- FDA Enforcement Report
- CDC Pandemic Influenza Update
- CDC Tuesday Morning Seminars



Case Study - USDA FSIS get Epi-X

- Want to reach key public health officials
- First posting 8/20/2005
- As of 10/23/2006, 48 Total Reports
 - 47 Standard Report
 - 1 Update
 - 2 Class II Recall
 - 45 Class I Recall, 1 updated



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Training

get **Epi-X**

- Security training before first log-in and yearly
- Online courses
 - Introduction to *Epi-X*
 - Reporting on *Epi-X*
 - NPT Facilitator Training
- Online Help
- Helpdesk and Editorial staff



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Notification Testing



- All states and some major cities
- By public health role
- System-wide test



Notification Testing



- Purpose
 - Prepare users for emergency response
 - Improve notification processes and systems
- 2004 Effort – 53 tests
 - Users knew the day and approximate time
- 2005 Effort – 54 tests
 - Unannounced tests
- 2006 Effort – 54 state / 8 role-specific
 - Training for facilitators and contributors
 - State tests contributed by the jurisdiction
- 2007 Effort – 10 state / 4 role-specific
 - Training for facilitators and contributors
 - State tests contributed by the jurisdiction



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Content Issues



- How do we keep *Epi-X* secure?
- How do we increase reporting?
 - Training
 - Outreach
 - Communications plan
- What should be reported that is not now?
 - What outbreaks are not reported?
 - Should a specific topic be a focus?



Questions?

Rossanne M. Philen, M.D., M.S.
CAPT USPHS
Medical Director, *Epi-X*
(404) 498-6071 or RHP2@CDC.GOV

