



The Great Lakes Border Health Initiative

Indiana - Michigan - Minnesota - New York - Ohio - Ontario - Pennsylvania - Wisconsin

APRIL 22-23, 2009 – The Great Lakes Border Health Initiative provided another vital opportunity for cross-border public health collaboration and communication when the GLBHI Northern Border Strategic Planning Meeting was held in Madison, Wisconsin on April 23 and 24.

In addition to members of the Great Lakes Border Health Initiative, attendees included representatives from the Eastern Border Health Initiative, the Pacific Northwest Border Health Alliance, and North Dakota-Saskatchewan-Manitoba. More than 40 participants attended the conference, representing 30 jurisdictions and organizations from the United States and Canada.

Attendance at the meeting was by invitation-only. Participants included public health managers, emergency preparedness coordinators, physicians, nurses, epidemiologists, legal counsel, food and drug advisors, laboratory specialists, and federal government representatives.

Stakeholders worked together to identify key issues for inclusion in a 3- to 5-year strategic plan that will provide long-term direction and establish mutual priorities related to international infectious disease surveillance.

The Great Lakes Border Health Initiative plans to hold a larger-scale conference in 2010. Watch the GLBHI website for more conference details and registration materials as they become available.

Questions about the Great Lakes Border Health Initiative may be directed to the EWIDS Project Coordinator in Michigan, Diane Krueger (kruegerd@michigan.gov or 517/335-6533) or Richard Buck (RJB06@health.state.ny.us or 518/474-2893).

“Enhancing early warning infectious disease surveillance at our international borders”