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# Great Lakes Border Health Initiative Surveillance and Communications Subcommittee

The Surveillance and Communications Subcommittee is composed primarily of epidemiologists and other infectious disease specialists, as well as those with an interest in disease surveillance systems.

This group primarily focuses on creating and/or maintaining communication links and tools that assist in infectious disease surveillance. They have been critical in the development and testing of the *Infectious Disease Emergency Communications Guideline* and have also developed a reportable disease list which details those diseases that are reportable in each state/province. The Surveillance and Communications Subcommittee also collaborated to create a communication system matrix which cross-references electronic reporting capabilities across the GLBHI states and Ontario.

The Surveillance and Communications Subcommittee worked in tandem with the Legal Subcommittee to develop the GLBHI *Public Health Data Sharing Agreement*.

The Subcommittee continues to work on the program of cross-border enrollment for users of Epi-X and CNPHI PHA, the electronic disease notification systems in use in the U.S. and Canada, respectively.

In May 2010, the Subcommittee formally changed its name from the Public Health Communications to the Surveillance and Communications Subcommittee, to reflect its expanded role into surveillance systems and projects.

The Surveillance and Communications Subcommittee meets monthly to bi-monthly via teleconference and once yearly, in person, at the GLBHI annual conference.

The Surveillance and Communications Subcommittee is co-chaired by Morgan Barnes of Ontario and Ryan Gentry of Indiana.