Crowdsourcing Global Epidemic Intelligence To Verify Outbreaks Faster

EPICORE

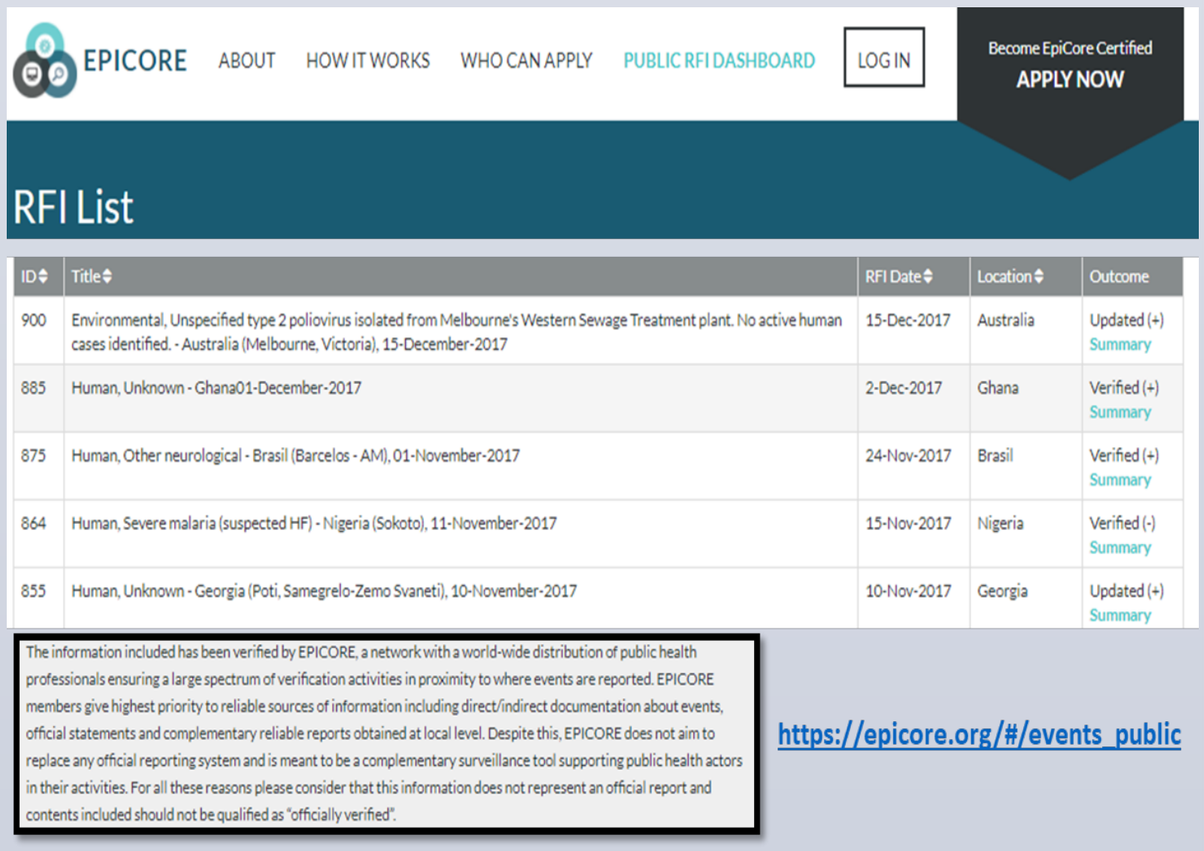
Ending Pandemics | HealthMap Global Health, Local Information | ProMED mail Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases | TEPHINET Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network

Rationale

- With automated disease detection systems on the rise, the need to verify actual outbreaks from 'noise' is an arduous task
- Launched in 2015, EpiCore is a robust, volunteer community of human, animal, and environmental health professionals committed to *verifying* disease outbreaks
- EpiCore is providing real time updates to requests for information faster than traditional disease surveillance methods

How it Works

- EpiCore draws on the knowledge of a global community of human, animal, and environmental health professionals by connecting them within a secure online networking and reporting system
- EpiCore requesters (e.g. analysts from ProMED or HealthMap), are organizations or systems that look for the earliest reports regarding possible outbreaks around the world
- When a 'signal' of a potential outbreak is found, an RFI (Request for Information) is sent to EpiCore members in that geographic region
- Through a secure online platform, members are able to easily and quickly provide local details and expertise which speeds outbreak verification
- Information collected is organized in event summaries publicly available on an online dashboard as well as shared via other dissemination channels



https://epicore.org/#/events_public

Current Members

Results

- ~30 Requests for Information per month
- <1.5 days is the average time to verification response
- 2040 members in 143 countries
- 75% volunteer members are human health practitioners
- One out of every four requests involves an animal disease
- ~60% response rate on average compared to 3% response rate on ProMED before EpiCore

EpiCore in-person trainings held in several regions of the world as well as at TEPHINET regional and global conferences

Looking Ahead

- EpiCore enables expansive monitoring and rapid verification of outbreaks in a cost-efficient manner
- EpiCore is able to reduce the signal-to-noise ratio among the numerous disease surveillance data streams by quickly de-escalating rumors or false information
- EpiCore is focused on expanding its member distribution and including more animal and wildlife health practitioners in our commitment to One Health
- Requests for Information will be expanded to include new requesters (e.g. GPHIN, MSF)

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