



Crowdsourcing Global Epidemic Intelligence To Verify Outbreaks Faster



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

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)

 EPICORE

ABOUT

HOW IT WORKS

WHO CAN APPLY

PUBLIC RFI DASHBOARD

LOGIN

Become EpiCore Certified
APPLY NOW

RFI List

ID	Title	RFI Date	Location	Outcome
900	Environmental, Unspecified type 2 poliovirus isolated from Melbourne's Western Sewage Treatment plant. No active human cases identified. - Australia (Melbourne, Victoria), 15-December-2017	15-Dec-2017	Australia	Updated (+) Summary
885	Human, Unknown - Ghana 01-December-2017	2-Dec-2017	Ghana	Verified (+) Summary
875	Human, Other neurological - Brasil (Barcelos - AM), 01-November-2017	24-Nov-2017	Brasil	Verified (+) Summary
864	Human, Severe malaria (suspected HF) - Nigeria (Sokoto), 11-November-2017	15-Nov-2017	Nigeria	Verified (-) Summary
855	Human, Unknown - Georgia (Poti, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti), 10-November-2017	10-Nov-2017	Georgia	Updated (+) Summary

The information included has been verified by EPICORE, a network with a world-wide distribution of public health professionals ensuring a large spectrum of verification activities in proximity to where events are reported. EPICORE members give highest priority to reliable sources of information including direct/indirect documentation about events, official statements and complementary reliable reports obtained at local level. Despite this, EPICORE does not aim to replace any official reporting system and is meant to be a complementary surveillance tool supporting public health actors in their activities. For all these reasons please consider that this information does not represent an official report and contents included should not be qualified as "officially verified".

https://epicore.org/#/events_public