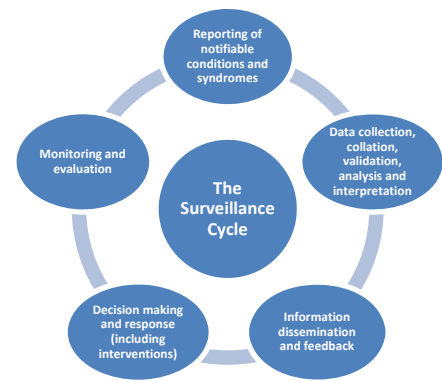


**PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEILLANCE IN BERMUDA**

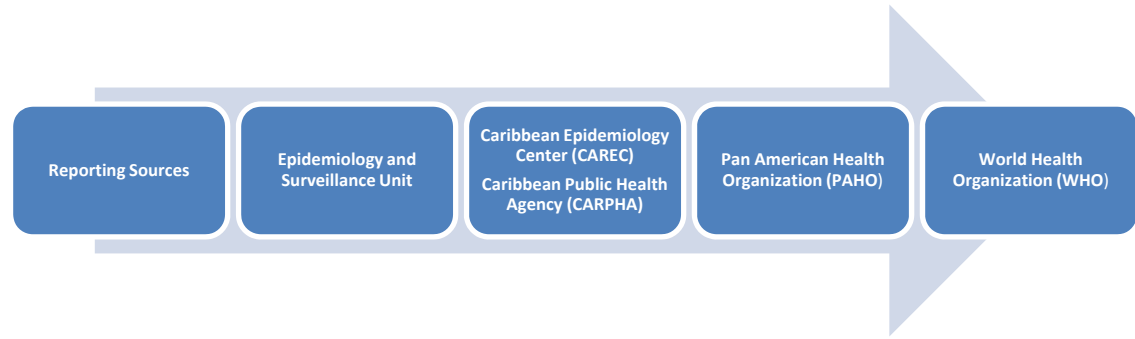
Public health surveillance has been defined as the ongoing and systematic collection, collation, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of health data essential to the planning, implementation and evaluation of public health practice. The ultimate objective of public health surveillance activities are application to disease prevention and control.

The main uses of public health surveillance data are to estimate the size of a health problem, detect outbreaks of communicable diseases and other public health hazards, characterize disease trends, evaluate interventions and preventive programs and provide information for use in health planning.



In Bermuda, the Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit of the Department of Health has the responsibility for monitoring certain communicable and non-communicable diseases and syndromes that may impact on the health of individuals and the community.

This is done through collaboration with local health care providers, who have a duty to report to the Unit. Bermuda also has an obligation to report to regional and world health authorities. The usual reporting chain is shown below, but reports are also submitted to other international organizations. In this way we contribute to global health security.



In-country dissemination of information and feedback is also important to public health, hence these Surveillance Reports. The purpose of these Surveillance Reports is to update health care providers and others on the situation of certain communicable diseases and syndromes in Bermuda and also provide further information on local and international health events.

**CONTINUE READING FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EPIDEMIOLOGY AND SURVEILLANCE UNIT**

## KNOW YOUR EPIDEMIOLOGY AND SURVEILLANCE UNIT

### MISSION

The Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit ensures surveillance and investigation of communicable and non-communicable diseases and follows up outbreaks, such as food and waterborne diseases. It is responsible for the routine collection, analysis, interpretation and distribution of information relevant for control and prevention of communicable and non-communicable disease. It also provides health education to health professionals and the general public.

### GOALS

The Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit aims to detect, track, prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases, to study the incidence and epidemiologic characteristics of selected communicable and non-communicable diseases and conditions, and to provide morbidity and mortality information for these conditions which impact on the public health of Bermuda.

The Unit works to ensure the availability of high quality and comprehensive health information and to facilitate its use for public health assessment, policy development, and program planning and evaluation.

The ultimate goal of the Unit is a reduction in the incidence of communicable diseases and other public health issues through the use of prevention measures, prompt detection of outbreaks, clusters and unusual events and appropriate epidemiological investigation. In this vein the Unit works closely with the Department of Health's Health Promotion Office.

### OBJECTIVES

1. To allow for the early detection of and appropriate response to unusual events, clusters and outbreaks of communicable disease
2. To provide epidemiological data on the magnitude, distribution and trends of communicable diseases, syndromes, and deaths, according to time, place, and person as applicable
3. To provide relevant health information that is accessible, accurate and timely

### KEY ACTIVITIES

1. Routine surveillance of selected communicable diseases and syndromes
2. Investigation and follow-up of communicable diseases and outbreaks, including food- and water-borne diseases
3. Analysis and interpretation of health-related data relevant to the control and prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases
4. Collection, analysis and interpretation of mortality information
5. Participation in the conducting of special studies, projects and research
6. Dissemination of health-related data to health professionals, policy makers, international health agencies(WHO, PAHO, CAREC, CARPHA), and others
7. Provision of health education information through various means to health professionals and the general public

## STAFF AND ROLES

### SURVEILLANCE OFFICER – MS. BRENDA VANDERPOOL

The Surveillance Officer actively calls the pool of sentinel physicians for communicable disease and syndrome reports. Reports are also submitted by the KEMH Pathology Department (Laboratory) and the Department of Health Clinics. Once the data has been collected and collated by the Surveillance Officer, it is reviewed by the Assessment Officer and ultimately disseminated to appropriate regional and local stakeholders. The Surveillance Officer is also responsible for coding the underlying causes of death in the population.

### NURSE EPIDEMIOLOGIST – MS. LISE OUTERBRIDGE. RN

The Nurse Epidemiologist investigates and assesses reported cases of selected communicable diseases and syndromes. Any reported outbreaks are also investigated by the Nurse Epidemiologist with the appropriate partners. For example, in the event of food or water borne illness the Environmental Health Officers and the Central Government Laboratory would work with staff in the Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit. Department of Health Medical Officers and Nurses also assist with outbreak investigations as required. The Nurse Epidemiologist conducts interviews with persons newly diagnosed with HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis and other diseases of high public health importance. The Nurse Epidemiologist also engages in contact tracing, makes appropriate referrals, liaises with health professionals, develops policy and implements disease control measures as necessary.

### ASSESSMENT OFFICER – MS. DY-JUAN DEROZA, MSc, CHES

The Assessment Officer is responsible for the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of surveillance activities mentioned previously. In addition, the Assessment Officer carries out the analysis and interpretation of disease surveillance and outbreak data, produces regular surveillance reports for local and regional dissemination, and with the Nurse Epidemiologist provides public health information and education to Department of Health staff, private physicians, community organizations and the general public upon request. The Assessment Officer also monitors the maintenance and operations of registers and computerized databases for selected communicable diseases and syndromes and works on other special projects as necessary.

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## CONTACT US

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***THE EPIDEMIOLOGY AND SURVEILLANCE UNIT  
WISHES YOU A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2012!***

# EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEKS 2012

WEEK	FROM	TO	REPORTING DEADLINE*
1	1-Jan-12	7-Jan-12	9-Jan-12
2	8-Jan-12	14-Jan-12	16-Jan-12
3	15-Jan-12	21-Jan-12	23-Jan-12
4	22-Jan-12	28-Jan-12	30-Jan-12
5	29-Jan-12	4-Feb-12	6-Feb-12
6	5-Feb-12	11-Feb-12	13-Feb-12
7	12-Feb-12	18-Feb-12	20-Feb-12
8	19-Feb-12	25-Feb-12	27-Feb-12
9	26-Feb-12	3-Mar-12	5-Mar-12
10	4-Mar-12	10-Mar-12	12-Mar-12
11	11-Mar-12	17-Mar-12	19-Mar-12
12	18-Mar-12	24-Mar-12	26-Mar-12
13	25-Mar-12	31-Mar-12	2-Apr-12
14	1-Apr-12	7-Apr-12	9-Apr-12
15	8-Apr-12	14-Apr-12	16-Apr-12
16	15-Apr-12	21-Apr-12	23-Apr-12
17	22-Apr-12	28-Apr-12	30-Apr-12
18	29-Apr-12	5-May-12	7-May-12
19	6-May-12	12-May-12	14-May-12
20	13-May-12	19-May-12	21-May-12
21	20-May-12	26-May-12	28-May-12
22	27-May-12	2-Jun-12	4-Jun-12
23	3-Jun-12	9-Jun-12	11-Jun-12
24	10-Jun-12	16-Jun-12	18-Jun-12
25	17-Jun-12	23-Jun-12	25-Jun-12
26	24-Jun-12	30-Jun-12	2-Jul-12

WEEK	FROM	TO	REPORTING DEADLINE*
27	1-Jul-12	7-Jul-12	9-Jul-12
28	8-Jul-12	14-Jul-12	16-Jul-12
29	15-Jul-12	21-Jul-12	23-Jul-12
30	22-Jul-12	28-Jul-12	30-Jul-12
31	29-Jul-12	4-Aug-12	6-Aug-12
32	5-Aug-12	11-Aug-12	13-Aug-12
33	12-Aug-12	18-Aug-12	20-Aug-12
34	19-Aug-12	25-Aug-12	27-Aug-12
35	26-Aug-12	1-Sep-12	3-Sep-12
36	2-Sep-12	8-Sep-12	10-Sep-12
37	9-Sep-12	15-Sep-12	17-Sep-12
38	16-Sep-12	22-Sep-12	24-Sep-12
39	23-Sep-12	29-Sep-12	1-Oct-12
40	30-Sep-12	6-Oct-12	8-Oct-12
41	7-Oct-12	13-Oct-12	15-Oct-12
42	14-Oct-12	20-Oct-12	22-Oct-12
43	21-Oct-12	27-Oct-12	29-Oct-12
44	28-Oct-12	3-Nov-12	5-Nov-12
45	4-Nov-12	10-Nov-12	12-Nov-12
46	11-Nov-12	17-Nov-12	19-Nov-12
47	18-Nov-12	24-Nov-12	26-Nov-12
48	25-Nov-12	1-Dec-12	3-Dec-12
49	2-Dec-12	8-Dec-12	10-Dec-12
50	9-Dec-12	15-Dec-12	17-Dec-12
51	16-Dec-12	22-Dec-12	24-Dec-12
52	23-Dec-12	29-Dec-12	31-Dec-12

For a complete listing of all notifiable diseases and syndromes and a downloadable copy of the Surveillance Manual, visit [www.health.gov.bm](http://www.health.gov.bm).

\*Epidemiological weeks run from Sunday to Saturday. Reporting sources (sentinel physicians, clinics, etc.) should submit information to the Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit by the following Monday to ensure timely reporting to international agencies.

Weekly Reports should be made on the appropriate reporting forms and faxed to the Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (ESU) on 296-3283. For email-based forms, email [epidemiology@gov.bm](mailto:epidemiology@gov.bm). For cases/events requiring immediate notification, call 278-6503.