**Implementing Instruction – EPI**

**Access to Disease Surveillance Systems**

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**Introduction**

There are five (5) surveillance tools used by local health departments and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) for routine disease surveillance and investigation. Because those surveillance tools are used on a day-to-day basis, training on how to use the systems during an incident would not be needed. These tools would continue to be used during an outbreak.

* National Outbreak Reporting System (NORS)
* Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS)
* National Retail Data Monitor (NRDM)
* Epi-Center
* Epi - X

**Purpose**

The purpose for this implementing instruction is to provide guidance, pertaining to the surveillance tools used in southeast central and southeast Ohio, on:

* Who traditionally has access;
* How to gain access; and
* How to obtain training on the tool.

**Systems Access**

Each system requires a signed “User’s Agree”, which explains allowable and unallowable uses of the system. With exception of the EPI-X system, system requests/” user’s agreement” must go through ODH. At that time the level of access will be granted based on individual’s job description. See the “Reference” section of this instruction to locate and review the “user’s agreement” for each system.

Regional Epidemiologists must initiate registration with all surveillance tools within five (5) business days of start date. New epidemiologists will be scheduled with other regional epidemiologists for more detailed roles and responsibilities

| System | Contact for Access | Agreement Kept With | Traditionally SCO/SEO Access Allowed To: |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NORS | Ellen Salehi  [ellen.salehi@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:ellen.salehi@odh.ohio.gov)  614.466.0231 | CDC | Regional Epidemiologists |
| ODRS | Tammy Shrivers  [tammy.shrivers@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:tammy.shrivers@odh.ohio.gov)  614.728.4711 | SEO/SCO EPIs | * LHD staff deemed appropriate, * Hospital ICP, * Regional Epidemiologists, * State Laboratory, * Private Laboratories |
| NRDM | Rich Thomas  [richard.thomas@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:richard.thomas@odh.ohio.gov)  614.728.9185  OR  SMED@odh.ohio.gov | University of Pennsylvania | Regional Epidemiologists |
| Epi-Center | Rich Thomas  [richard.thomas@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:richard.thomas@odh.ohio.gov)  614.728.9185  (Infectious diseases and general questions)    Kara Manchester  [Kara.Manchester@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:Kara.Manchester@odh.ohio.gov)  614.466.8437  (Drug and synthetic opioid questions) | ODH | Regional Epidemiologists |
| Epi-X | Kristen Dickerson  [kisten.dickerson@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:kisten.dickerson@odh.ohio.gov)  State Epidemiologist  See: “Systems Training – Epi-X” for details on requesting access. | CDC | Regional Epidemiologists |

**Systems Training**

ODRS

Training on the use of the ODRS is provided to the local health department users by the SCO and SEO Regional Epidemiologists, who have received “train-the-trainer’ Training and act as the LHD Administrator.

NORS

Training on this system is available via videos, which can be found at: [NORSDirect | National Outbreak Reporting System (NORS) | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/nors/norsdirect.html)

NRDMS

There is no specific training developed for the use of this system.

EpiCenter

A webinar has been developed to train users. Access to the webinar is through the Ohio Public Health Communications System (OPHCS). The pathway once OPHCS has been accessed is: OPHCS Documents 🡪 EPI Issues 🡪ODH Surv 🡪 EpiCenter for Local Public Health 🡪 Training folder 🡪 2014 EPI Center Training

Epi-X

Your Health Commissioner must submit your name, contact information and title to Kristen Dickerson, State Epidemiologist, to request Epi-X access. Place the words: “Epi X Access” in the subject line.

Once access has been obtained from CDC, a training “link” will be given. Annual training is required for this system.

**References**

| Title | Location |
| --- | --- |
| NORS Rules of Behavior | Now presented when user registers for site access. |
| ODRS Users Agreement | <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/Ohio-Disease-Reporting-System/forms/LHD-Administrator-Agreement> |
| NRDM Users Agreement | OPHCS 🡪Documents 🡪 EPI Issues 🡪ODH Surv 🡪 EpiCenter for Local Public Health 🡪 Access Forms 🡪 NRDM – RODS Authorized User Agreeement. |
| Epi-Center | OPHCS 🡪Documents 🡪 EPI Issues 🡪ODH Surv 🡪 EpiCenter for Local Public Health 🡪 Access Forms 🡪 EPI Center LHD Access form |
| Epidemic Information Exchange (EPI-X) | <http://www.cdc.gov/epix/> |

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