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1.0 Purpose

This document aims to standardize the procedure for epidemiologic investigations and response.

2.0 Scope

This process is applicable to the CHD 4B-RESU conduct of outbreak investigations and response.

3.0 References

- 3.1 Philippine Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (PIDSR) Manual of Procedures
- 3.2 Administrative Order No. 2007-0036 (Guidelines on the PIDSR Framework)
- 3.3 International Health Regulation 2005 (IHR 2005)
- 3.4 Principles of Epidemiology – Steps in Outbreak Investigation

4.0 Definition of Terms/Acronyms

4.1 Outbreak

The occurrence of more cases of a disease than expected in a given area or among specific group of people over a particular period of time

4.2 Outbreak Investigation/Epidemiologic Investigation

Systematic approach that ensures that the activities done in search for the answers as to the source, mode of transmission and causative agent in the outbreak is done without missing important steps along the way.

4.3 Descriptive Epidemiology

The aspect of epidemiology concerned with organizing and summarizing health-related data according to time, place and person.

4.4 Analytic Epidemiology

The aspect of epidemiology concerned with the search for health-related causes and effects. Uses comparison groups, which provide baseline data, to quantify the association between the exposures and outcomes, and test hypotheses about causal relationships.

4.5 RESU

Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit


4.6 Outbreak Investigation Team

Composed of RESU, concerned Health Program Manager(s), DOH Representatives, Disease Surveillance Officer (LGUs), and Transport Officer

4.7 Event-based Surveillance and Response

A non-structured but systematic rapid detection, reporting, confirmation and assessment of public health events including rumors of clusters of diseases and/or unexplained deaths



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5.0 Responsibilities

5.1 Regional Director

Approves Personnel Order and other related documents

5.2 Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (RESU) Team

Prepares, conducts and evaluates outbreak investigations, including preparation of work plans and management of surveillance resources

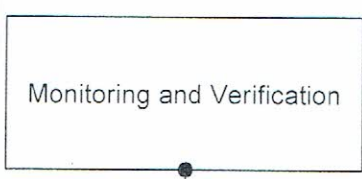
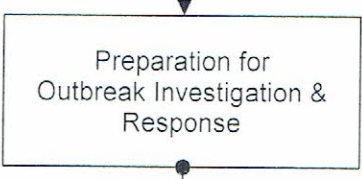
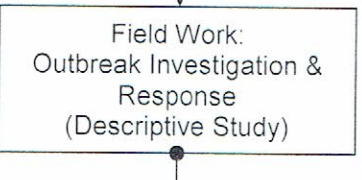
5.3 Outbreak Investigation Team

Conducts actual outbreak investigation, with team members focusing on assigned or specific field of expertise, working in close coordination with other team members and based on work plans prepared by RESU


5.4 Administrative Support (Finance, Logistic and Supply)


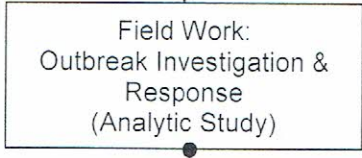

Prepares and acts on emergency administrative procedures in support to financial and logistic requirements for the conduct of outbreak investigations

6.0 Procedure

Ref. No.	Key Activities	Responsible Person/s	Reference Document/Record
6.1	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor events of public health importance Verify/confirm reported/noticed event Assess event on criteria for field epidemiologic investigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSOs/DSCs DOH Reps ESR Officer PIDSR Officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESR Reports PIDSR Reports
6.2	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and coordinate with possible members of Outbreak Investigation Team Present initial information regarding reported outbreak and the available measures Prepare work plan and approval of Personnel Order and related documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RESU Team Outbreak Investigation Team Admin Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESR Reports PIDSR Reports Personnel Orders
6.3	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present plan of actions to LGU/LCE Conduct descriptive study of the outbreak/event as to time, place and person Conduct community assemblies and exit conference to communicate findings and recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOH Reps DSOs/DSCs Outbreak Investigation Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Outbreak Investigation Report



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6.4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up status of outbreak and implementation of recommended measures Evaluate and improve control and preventive measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOH Reps DSOs/DSCs Outbreak Investigation Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up Reports
6.5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform in-depth investigation to identify relationship or association between exposure and disease Conduct conferences to communicate findings and recommend control and preventive measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOH Reps DSOs/DSCs Outbreak Investigation Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up Outbreak Investigation Report
6.5.1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up status of outbreak and continue assess the implementation and effectiveness of control and preventive measures Finalize investigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOH Reps DSOs/DSCs Outbreak Investigation Team RESU Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Outbreak Investigation Report

6.0 Procedure

6.1 Monitoring & Verification

- 6.1.1 Monitor possible outbreaks, clustering of cases and other events of public health importance through ESR event reporting or weekly analysis of PIDS data
- 6.1.2 Verify/confirm if the reported/noticed event merits further monitoring or follow-up
Note: *If the reported/noticed event merits further monitoring, proceed to Item 6.1.3, else, consider the event as "Discarded and Closed" and record to ESR Registry*
- 6.1.3 Assess if the verified event meets **any** of the criteria for field epidemiologic investigation
 - a) Request from LGU/Regional Director
 - b) LGU lacks capacity to respond
 - c) Severity of the event
 - d) IHR reportable events
 - e) Program considerations
 - f) Learning opportunity

Note: *If the reported/noticed event merits field investigation, proceed to Item 6.2, else, continue active monitoring of the event status and the response provided*


6.2 Preparation for Outbreak Investigation and Response

- 6.2.1 Identify composition of Outbreak Investigation Team members and coordinate for specific task/s related to the conduct of investigation
- 6.2.2 Conduct an initial meeting and present available information regarding reported outbreak and control and preventive measures to Outbreak Investigation Team
- 6.2.3 Prepare work plan, approval of Personnel Order and related documents, including budgets and logistics

6.3 Fieldwork: Outbreak Investigation and Response (Descriptive Study)

- 6.3.1 Preliminary meeting and courtesy call with LGU/LCE to present plan of actions
- 6.3.2 Conduct descriptive study to describe the outbreak/events as to time, place and person



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6.3.3 Conduct community assemblies and exit conference to communicate findings and recommended control and preventive measures to concerned offices, groups and/or individuals

6.4 Post Outbreak Investigation Monitoring and Response

6.4.1 Continue outbreak monitoring and follow-up the implementation status of recommended measures

Note: 1) If the reported/noticed event is not yet controlled and the recommended measures are not yet implemented or not yet initiated, proceed to Item 6.4.2, else, finalize the investigation and communicate findings to stakeholders and, consider the event as "Responded and Closed" and record to ESR Registry

Note: 2) If the reported/noticed event is not yet controlled after implementation of recommended measures, proceed to Item 6.5.1, else, finalize the investigation and communicate findings to stakeholders and, consider the event as "Responded and Closed" and record to ESR Registry

6.4.2 Evaluate and improve control and preventive measures and reiterate compliance of concerned offices, groups and/or individuals to the recommended measures

6.4.3 Continue outbreak monitoring and follow-up the implementation status of recommended measures

Note: If the reported/noticed event is not yet controlled after implementation of recommended measures, proceed to Item 6.5.1, else, finalize the investigation and communicate findings to stakeholders and, consider the event as "Responded and Closed" and record to ESR Registry

6.5 Fieldwork: Outbreak Investigation and Response (Analytic Study)

6.5.1 Conduct analytic study to identify relationship or association between exposure and disease

6.5.2 Conduct conference(s) to communicate findings and recommended control and preventive measures to concerned offices, groups and/or individuals

6.6 Post Outbreak Investigation and Response Follow-up

6.6.1 Follow-up status of outbreak and assess the implementation and effectiveness of control and preventive measures and continue modification/improvement of recommendations as necessary

6.6.2 Finalize the investigation and communicate findings and, consider the event as "Responded and Closed" and record to ESR Registry

7.0 Attachments

None

8.0 Approval

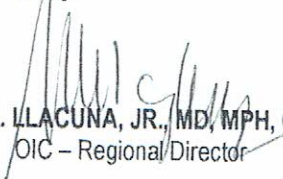
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