

Report

Venue

The workshop was held at the Police Training Room, Police Headquarters between the hours of 8:30 am and 3:30 pm.

Attendees

Nineteen members of staff were present for the morning sessions, sixteen of whom returned for the afternoon's practical session. One Physician joined us after the lunch break bringing the total number of attendees for the post lunch session to seventeen.

Facilitators

The following individuals served as facilitators for the workshop:

- Dr Nilesh Buddha - Medical Epidemiologist, Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC);
- Ms Dorothea Hazel - Epidemiologist, Ministry of Health, Montserrat ;
- Ms Violet Browne - Community Nursing Manager, Ministry of Health, Montserrat.

Aims/Objectives

The aim of the Training Workshop was to improve the practice of communicable disease surveillance on Montserrat.

To achieve this aim the organisers sought to achieve the following objectives:

- Update the relevant members of staff on the new communicable disease surveillance reporting system initiated by CAREC in January 2006;
- Familiarise staff with the new reporting instruments (forms, definitions, deadlines);
- Provide an opportunity for staff involved in surveillance activities and members of the Surveillance Response Team to give feedback on the National Communicable Disease Surveillance Manual – in preparation for its finalisation.

Agenda (Attachment I)

Highlights of the Agenda items included:

Brief opening ceremony

- Workshop declared open by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and Community Services.

Overview of the Regional Surveillance System

- The legal and moral rationale for regional surveillance were outlined
- The revision of the Regional Surveillance System was explained
- The new weekly Syndromic reporting system was described and discussed.

Overview of National Surveillance System

- Local surveillance activities were outlined
- The reporting forms, definitions and requirements were presented and discussed
- Relevant forms were circulated and feedback obtained

Presentation of Surveillance Manual

- The previously circulated draft of the National Communicable Disease Surveillance Manual was discussed – no major changes were suggested
- Minor typographical/spelling corrections were made, and the membership of the surveillance response team amended

Tally & Case Scenario Exercises

- Participants were given the opportunity to complete surveillance tally sheets using hypothetical patient data and scenarios

Evaluation

- Participants were given the opportunity to indicate their perceptions of the various presentations and activities

Feedback/Outcome

The following were suggestions made during the various discussions:

- The tally sheets need to be amended to allow staff to indicate the sex and age of cases being reported.
- District Nurses should utilise the tally sheets and endeavour to have reports ready by Monday morning of every week;
- Efforts should be made to share all the available information with Physicians in private practice on island.

The following information was gleaned from the completed evaluation forms (Attachment II):

- All respondents felt that the workshop had achieved the stated objectives;
- All respondents indicated that the presentations on surveillance impacted their knowledge of the subject, (80% felt their knowledge was greatly increased, 20% slightly increased);
- All respondents felt the time spent reviewing the draft Manual was well spent;
- All respondents described the practical exercises as very useful in re-enforcing the information provided in the earlier presentations;
- Respondents felt the facilitators were knowledgeable on the subject matter and were clear in their presentations and explanations.
- Two respondents expressed the desire that in the future, reading material should be circulated prior to the workshop.

Proposed Follow Up Actions

The following have been identified as post-workshop actions to be taken:

1. The local Epidemiologist, in consultation with nursing staff, will amend the tally sheets and circulate them before the end of October, 2006;
2. Laminated copies of the case definitions for Syndromic surveillance will be made available to all reporting sites to aid the reporting process;
3. The local Epidemiologist will make additional efforts to share the relevant information with Physicians in the private sector;
4. The National Communicable Disease Surveillance Manual will be amended as per the suggestions of the group and forwarded to CAREC for printing of 30 copies;
5. The two local facilitators will periodically assess the practices of the staff at the reporting sites. This assessment will include:
 - scheduled and unscheduled site visits and audits
 - repeating the tally exercise conducted at the workshop
 - engaging staff in similar tally exercises at intervals to be determined.