

DATA FOR HEALTH INITIATIVE

Public Health Bulletin Project

As part of Bloomberg Philanthropies' Data for Health Initiative, the CDC Foundation partners with ministries of health (MOHs) and national public health institutes (NPHIs) to develop and strengthen national public health bulletins (PHBs). PHBs strengthen surveillance systems by providing reliable and timely epidemiologic data to enable detection of and response to public health threats.

OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETINS

Definition

A PHB, which is published by the MOH or NPHI, achieves its authority through vetting and clearance processes that ensure scientific rigor and consistency with the government's public health programs, plans and policies. Content includes surveillance and outbreak reports, treatment and prevention guidelines and scientific manuscripts.

Role

A PHB serves as the authoritative voice of the government: alerting professionals and the public to health threats, providing updates on the control of infectious diseases and other health problems and providing clinical recommendations and other guidance.

Unique Functions

A PHB helps to rapidly disseminate government-cleared reports and recommendations—within days of discovery if a threat is urgent. In such cases, the vetting and clearance processes are expedited to provide the best available information as soon as possible.

Publication Frequency

PHBs should be published regularly, with early electronic releases when there is an urgent need for information.

THE PHB PROJECT

CDC Foundation provides technical assistance and financial support through Bloomberg's Data for Health Initiative to establish a new PHB or strengthen an existing one. Technical support includes providing strategic direction and training to produce and disseminate high-quality issues.

Once PHB staff are identified, the CDC Foundation provides technical assistance to develop:

- A PHB web page
- Communication strategies
- Standard operating procedures
- Governance structures and terms of reference
- A network of professional scientific writers and reviewers through trainings and workshops

IN-COUNTRY RESOURCES

- The following are in-country resources needed to establish a PHB:
- Articles of scientifically valid content, including outbreak reports, surveillance summaries and evidence-based recommendations
- Editors and reviewers who can ensure that all reports and other content are scientifically sound and clearly written
- Production personnel who can produce electronic versions of the PHB and maintain the web page
- A government clearance process, which includes a designated contact who can rapidly verify that the facts in the PHB are correct, and the recommendations are consistent with government policies