



Dear students,

We kindly wish to extend to you an invitation to participate in our *International Virtual Course on Pandemics: Detection, Containment, Control*.

Configuration
Users need to be in full control of their own data and reporting capabilities. They also need to be constantly aware of how they are to be used.

Account administrators need higher level access of the application, in order to be able to manage user settings for account users.

Key Requirements

1. Create account
2. Design forms
3. Setup locations
4. Assign users and permissions
5. Import data

Features

- Setup a new country account ready within 24 hours of an emergency being declared.
- Define custom features such as language, time zone, user types and account terms.
- Use form manager to design forms to collect appropriate case based data.
- Create custom location hierarchies based on the specific administrative levels in a country.
- Add geography to support mapping of data.
- Add GPS points for health facilities or other users using EMARS Mobile if none are available.
- Rapidly onboard users through a simple registration process or via direct invitations.
- Assign account types to define role and responsibilities depending on where users are working.
- Import existing data from Excel through a user interface, to reduce redundancy with database records.

The online course is an international partnership between The University College Freiburg (UCF), School of Public Health and Community Medicine, Gothenburg University, Sweden, The Institute for Infection Prevention and Hospital Epidemiology Medical Centre - University of Freiburg, and The Centre for Medicine and Society (ZMG) at the University of Freiburg, Germany.

WHO: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/emergencies/ewars-presentation.pdf?sfvrsn=9bf14b42_2

Background:

Emergency Risk Management for Health Fact Sheet | Global Platform | May 2011

Emergency Risk Management for Health COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Key points

- Communicable diseases have potential to cause socially wide emergencies such as influenza pandemics.
- Risks of outbreaks arising from natural hazard events and disasters are frequently non-zero.
- Outbreaks potential is related primarily to population, equipment and the consequent living conditions.
- Outbreaks are less frequent in disaster-affected populations than those unaffected by conflict.
- The main communicable disease causes of morbidity and mortality in emergency are:
 - diarrhoeal diseases, including cholera
 - acute respiratory infections
 - measles
 - vector-borne diseases
- High disaster coverage reduces the incidence of vector-borne diseases (e.g. malaria).
- Prevalence of acute diarrhoea rises in the weeks after conflict or natural disaster.
- Health attention and capacity of emergency risk management surveillance systems is essential to reduce morbidity.
- Management of disease vectors is essential to reduce morbidity and mortality.

Why is this important?

There are two major areas of focus: 1) where the risks of outbreaks are associated with other events, such as emergencies due to natural hazards and conflicts, and 2) where the emergency is caused by an infectious disease.

The past two decades have seen at least 1 billion people affected by natural disasters with related acute-fatal infection with communicable diseases.

What are the health risks?

In disaster situations, increased mortality and morbidity from communicable diseases is associated with:

- population displacement
- collapsing health services
- lack of disease control programmes
- poor access to health care in urban and rural areas
- malnutrition
- interrupted supplies and logistics
- poor coordination among agencies

The risk of communicable diseases is exacerbated primarily with the size and characteristics of the affected population, including the following factors:

- amount and availability of safe water
- functioning services
- nutritional status of the displaced population
- levels of immunity and vaccination coverage
- level of access to health care services

World Health Organization | Public Health England | UNISDR

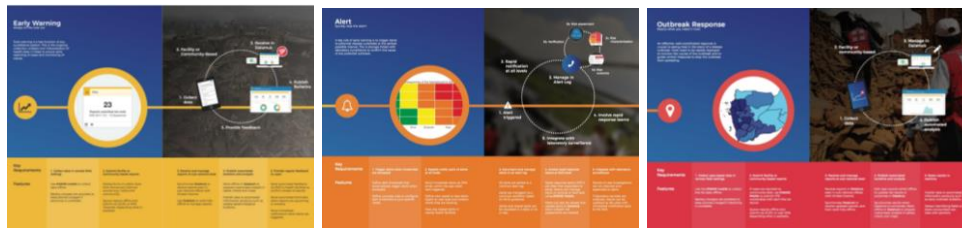
The emergence and re-emergence of a number of infectious diseases are influenced by the interaction between climate and human systems. Hence, they are subdivided in airborne, vector-borne and waterborne.

All three disease groups tend to appear in large epidemic waves overstressing the health services and causing huge economic loss and social harm to societies. Forecasting outbreaks and their magnitude as well as forecasting resource requirements when an outbreak has already started will drastically enhance the preparedness for outbreak prevention and a rational resource allocation mitigating its disastrous effects.

The Seminar:

The here described six weeks seminar supported by DAAD will present two options of dealing with outbreaks:

Group A: Forecasting outbreaks and their expected magnitude with the WHO-EWARS model (taking climate sensitive diseases as examples)



WHO: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/emergencies/ewars-presentation.pdf?sfvrsn=9bf14b42_2

Group B: Forecasting resource requirements when an outbreak has already started using the Freiburg modelling tool (taking the Corona Pandemic as an example).

The Seminar will be held from **14th of July 2023 to 28th of August 2023** and is based on self-learning materials and weekly online meetings with mentors. At the end of this course each student will prepare a PowerPoint presentation about a selected topic. The successful student will receive 6 ECTS points (pass/fail only).

This is an excellent occasion for students to meet experts in pandemics and a unique opportunity to meet people from different academic backgrounds who will be working together to discuss the following topics on pandemics:

- Early Warning and Response Systems (EWARS) for outbreaks: Temporal and spatial prediction model
- Surveillance and response
- Modelling resource needs for outbreak management

Please send your application in form of a motivational letter, comprehending to which group you would prefer to be assigned to, (max. 1 page) and your CV via e-mail to damaris.bockstahler@ucf.uni-freiburg.de, coordinator of the virtual course.

Application deadline: **02.07.2023**

The preliminary time frame:

Time	Item
7 th July to 14 th July 2023	Self-study time to get familiar with the format and the materials of the course "Pandemics in History"
14th July 2023 3pm - 7pm CEST	Kick-off event (approx. 4hrs)
21 st July – 24 th August 2023 (4 weeks) 1 - 2 hrs contact with the mentor per week	Self-study time and time to work with the mentors on the modules.
24 th – 28 th August 2023	Final presentations (t.b.d.)

We are very much looking forward to your participation in our e-learning course!

The Organising Committee