

Module Specification (Distance Learning)

In collaboration with University of London International Programmes



1. Title:	Control of Infectious Diseases
2. Module code:	IDM104
3. Institution:	Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Keppel Street London WC1E 7HT http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/itd/
4. Module Organiser:	Dr Robert Aunger
5. Mode of study:	Distance learning
6. Type:	Core module
7. Duration and dates:	<p>Deadlines if taken as part of a formal award:</p> <p>Application deadline: 30 June each year Registration deadline: 31 August each year Course registration duration: Up to 5 years Course starts: 1 October each year Examination takes place: Usually June each year (date to be confirmed)</p> <p>Deadlines if taken as an individual module (i.e. not registered for formal award):</p> <p>Application deadline: 31 August each year Registration deadline: 30 November each year Registration duration: 2 years Module study starts: 1 October each year Examination takes place: Usually June each year (date to be confirmed)</p>
8. Credit points:	15 credit points will be awarded on successful completion of this module at Masters level (Level 7).
9. Notional Learning Hours (NLH):	On average the module should take about 150 hours to complete, consisting of the following: Directed self study: 100 hours Assessment, review and revision: 25 hours Self-directed Learning: 25 hours.
10. Aim:	The module is an introduction to public health, surveillance methods, control of infectious diseases and the design of control programmes. We will not attempt to cover all aspects however we hope to cover enough of the basics to allow you to follow the essential arguments in recent articles written about current issues in these topics.
11. Learning objectives:	<p>On completing this module students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become better acquainted with some key concepts in public health • Make better use of the academic literature on surveillance and control of infectious diseases • Gain an awareness of the breadth of issues relevant to the control of infectious disease, from food hygiene to social inequality • Gain some appreciation for the intellectual history of efforts to control disease, and of the evolutionary nature of public health problems • Put together the basic components of a public health project to control an infectious disease problem.

12. Content:	<p>Section 1 Public Health This introductory section introduces some of the key concepts of public health to help guide you in your study of the control of infectious diseases. It contains three sessions. The first introduces general concepts useful in public health; the second provides a theoretical foundation for understanding how certain kinds of problems wind up being a concern for those working in public health in the first place; the third addresses ethical issues that can arise when working as a public health professional, particularly with regard to infectious disease control programs.</p> <p>Section 2 Surveillance In this second section you will be studying the important issue of surveillance, or how data about current trends in the prevalence and spread of infectious diseases can be collected and studied, so that control efforts can be based on the latest and best information about the threats at hand. The section is composed of 7 sessions, broken down into two categories. The first 4 sessions concern surveillance methods themselves, the second half (Sessions 5-7) various issues or trends of contemporary interest in the spread of infectious diseases.</p> <p>Section 3 Control In this third section you will get to the central topic of disease control. This Section contains nine sessions. The sessions can be broken down into two categories: the first set dealing with aspects of the environment and the second set of sessions are centred around solutions that involve changing people's behaviour in some way.</p> <p>Section 4 Designing Disease Control Programmes In the final session of this section you will design a disease control programme in a real country setting using information that you have learned throughout the previous three sessions. Disease control programmes, initiatives or projects vary in scope, focus, structure and duration. The Ministry of Health has overall responsibility for implementing disease control programmes. However, international donors, or MoH themselves often contract health services to NGOs to support National control activities. Going through this section, you will mirror the stages in this process in each session, thus developing a virtual program for a fictional situation.</p>
13. Learning methods:	<p>Learning is self-directed against a set of learning objectives, using the materials provided.</p> <p>Student support is available from the module tutors via a web-based discussion forum in which students are encouraged to participate. In addition, module tutors provide written feedback on the submitted assessed assignment.</p>
14. Study resources provided:	<p>Study Guide: Paper version.</p> <p>Reader (folder containing associated journal articles).</p> <p>Textbooks: David Heymann, <i>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</i> (19th edition); ISBN: 978-0875531892.</p> <p>Registered students have access to the School's online library resources.</p>

15. Assessment procedures:	<p>An optional formative assignment is available to help students practice some of the principles discussed, and obtain tutor feedback.</p> <p>Formal assessment of this module includes a two-hour unseen written paper (100%). The examination paper may consist of a choice of essay and short answer questions.</p> <p>Examinations are normally held in a student's country of residence, in one of over 650 examination centres worldwide. They are arranged mainly through Ministries of Education or the British Council. A local fee will be payable. A list of examination centres can be found at http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/current_students/general_resources/exams/exam_centres/index.shtml.</p> <p>If students fail an examination at the first entry they will be allowed one further attempt, the following year.</p>
16. Prerequisites:	<p>Those wishing to study this module must have regular access to the internet to benefit from library facilities, participate in web-based conference discussions and submit assignments.</p> <p>Students must meet the standard of English required to study this course. http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospectus/english.html.</p>
17. Attendance:	No maximum number
18. Selection, if applicable:	This module is available only to those registered on the MSc, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate <u>Infectious Diseases</u> courses; alternatively, it can be taken as an Individual Module.
19. Fees:	For current schedule of fees see http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/fees/schedules/lshtm.pdf .
20. Scholarships:	None available
21. External accreditation:	None
22. Application process:	Applications are managed by the University of London International Programmes (website: http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/).
23. Further enquiries:	Enquiries may be emailed to distance@lshtm.ac.uk .