

Module Specification (Distance Learning)

In collaboration with the University of London International Programmes



1. Title:	Communicable Disease Control
2. Module code:	PHM202
3. Institution:	Faculty of Public Health and Policy London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Keppel Street London WC1E 7HT http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/php/
4. Module Organiser:	Richard Coker
5. Mode of study:	Distance learning
6. Type:	Elective 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):	<p>On average the module should take about 150 hours to complete, consisting of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main reading and web-based conference participation: 80 hours • Additional reading materials and exercises: 30 hours • Assignments and exam preparation: 40 hours.
10. Aim:	This module aims to introduce students to the three main themes of communicable disease control: surveillance, outbreak investigation and vaccines.
11. Learning objectives:	<p>On completing this module students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the principles of control of communicable diseases; • Apply a basic knowledge of microbiology to epidemiological investigation; • Interpret statistics related to control of communicable diseases; • Understand the role of different professionals; and • Develop some understanding of the challenges of controlling some important infectious diseases.

<p>12. Content:</p>	<p>This module will explore the basics of control, namely surveillance, outbreak investigation and management, and vaccination. The module also illustrates these areas through an examination of some important diseases.</p> <p>The module begins by outlining the general principles of surveillance and addresses practical aspects of surveillance implementation. International surveillance is considered and examples of surveillance in practice illustrate the challenges and approaches to surveillance.</p> <p>Outbreaks of communicable diseases are considered next. Specifically, epidemiological approaches to investigation of outbreaks, the critically important elements to outbreak management, and analytical approaches to outbreak control. In addition to the textbook, compulsory and optional readings provide deeper considerations.</p> <p>Vaccines are an important tool in the public health armamentarium of disease control. The module explores several areas related to their use including their evaluation, delivery programmes, efficacy and effectiveness, surveillance or vaccine programmes and the role of the media.</p> <p>This module concludes by reflecting on a number of topical themes, some of which are disease specific (for example, influenza, tuberculosis, HIV) and some of which are broader (for example, food poisoning). Wider reading of optional papers aims to expand students' experience to further topical issues and challenges.</p>
<p>13. Learning methods:</p>	<p>Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives that are identified at the start of each chapter of the module textbook, which also offers focused reading and various learning activities. The module textbook <i>Controlling Communicable Disease</i> by Norman Noah.</p> <p>Additional learning materials include: a brief guide to the study module, recommended reading from the peer-reviewed literature, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and suggested relevant websites.</p> <p>Student support is available from the module tutors through the web-based discussion forum. Module tutors provide written feedback for all students on the web-based discussion forum and offer individual feedback on an assessed assignment submitted by the student.</p>
<p>14. Assessment procedures:</p>	<p>Students will be assessed by one or more assignments, which count 30% towards the overall grade for the module and by a two-hour unseen written examination, which will contribute 70% of the total grade for the module.</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>

15. Prerequisites:	<p>Those wishing to study this module should have regular access to the internet to benefit from library facilities, participate in web-based discussions and submit assignments.</p> <p>Students must meet the standard of English required to study this course. See http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospectus/english.html.</p> <p>This module is recommended for students studying the Environment and Health, Health Promotion, and General streams of the DL MSc Public Health course.</p>
16. Attendance:	No maximum number
17. Selection, if applicable:	<p>This module is available only to students registered for the MSc <u>Epidemiology</u>, <u>Global Health</u>, <u>Infectious Diseases</u> and <u>Public Health</u> courses. It can also be taken by those studying the PG Diploma Global Health Policy, Infectious Diseases or Public Health courses under the credit framework scheme; alternatively, it can also be taken as an individual module.</p> <p>This module is <u>not</u> available to those who have already studied module IDM701 (ex-HS307) <i>Introduction to Public Health and Control of Infectious Diseases</i>.</p>
18. Fees:	<p>For current schedule of fees see http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/fees/schedules/lshtm.pdf.</p>
19. Scholarships:	None available
20. External accreditation:	None
21. Application process:	<p>Applications are managed by the University of London International Programmes (website: http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/).</p>
22. Further enquiries:	Enquiries may be emailed to distance@lshtm.ac.uk .