

# Public Health Interviews

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# Objectives

- Define the purpose and goals of epidemiologic interviews
- Describe three components of effective communication
- Describe techniques to elicit accurate information



# Who does the epidemiologist interview?

- Health professionals reporting diseases
- People diagnosed with or suspected to have an infectious disease
- Contacts of people with infectious diseases
- Exposed to a disease source
- Workers involved in a suspected disease outbreak



# Where do interviews occur?

- Homes
- Hospitals
- Workplaces
- Schools, child care centers
- Farms
- Airports
- Over the phone



# Why do epidemiologists interview people?

- Obtain complete data for disease reporting and analysis
- Provide clues that lead to hypothesis development
- Identify the source and/or connections between disease cases or outbreaks
- Help prevent disease in exposed



# What is the goal of the interview?

- Obtain honest, complete, accurate information
- Educate the person being interviewed about the disease and treatment
- Motivate the individual to help identify other at risk people
- Reduce risk of disease spread



# Keys to successful public health interviews

- Trust
- Confidentiality
- Objectivity
- Communication



# Public health interview activity

- Develop a list of questions to ask one of the individuals with respiratory illness
  - Using this list we will practice interviewing three individuals as a group

