

BioSchedule

BioSense Training and Orientation Sessions
All BioSense training sessions occur on Tuesdays, from 1:00–2:30. Unless otherwise listed, the toll-free number to access each session is +1 (866) 756-5589 and the participant code is 2229244.

- **BioSense Training**
Tuesday, July 8, 2008
- **Algorithm Webinar**
Tuesday, July 15, 2008
- **BioSense Training (Special Topics)**
Tuesday, July 22, 2008
- **Influenza Module Training**
Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Upcoming Conferences

- **National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH)**
Madison, WI
July 22-24, 2008
<http://www.nalboh.org>
- **Public Health Information Network (PHIN)**
Atlanta, GA
August 24-28, 2008
<http://www.cdc.gov/phinf/>

BioSense Users' Questions

What is the Influenza module?

The Influenza Module is a new tool for the BioSense application that offers Influenza-specific data from BioSense, and other data supplied by the CDC Influenza Division. The module allows tremendous customization of maps and time series views and allows the user to create a customized "dashboard" view for their own uses within their jurisdiction. Updated once a week, the Influenza Module is currently being offered to state BioSense Administrators, state Influenza Coordinators, and state-level users with BioSense Administrator approval.

Interested users can obtain more information about the Influenza Tool by e-mailing biosensehelp@cdc.gov.

See you at the PHIN Conference!



We want to hear from you. Let us know what you think about the new design of the Bulletin by sending your feedback to biosenseusers@cdc.gov.

Welcome

We are happy to present the July 2008 issue of the BioSense Bulletin. We hope that you like our new look. It's been a busy year so far for the BioSense Program. In this issue, you can read about our new vision, the upcoming Real Time, Real Talk teleconference, some exciting news about BioSense training, and details about the redesign of the BioSense webpage.

Last issue's BioQuestion asked how users access this publication. Responses indicated that 48% of people accessed the Bulletin from the BioSense webpage link and 52% of people accessed it from the email.

This issue's BioQuestion is below. Simply click on the button to link to it.

[BioQuestion](#)

BioInsight

We sat down with Dr. Leslie Lenert, Director of CDC's National Center for Public Health Informatics (NCPHI) in the Coordinating Center for Health Information and Service (CCHIS) to discuss BioSense's priorities for this year, particularly its new vision.



Dr. Leslie Lenert, Director of CDC's National Center for Public Health Informatics (NCPHI)

Dr. Lenert identified three areas that BioSense will focus on this year:

Developing a distributed network

BioSense is exploring the use of grid technology to merge data from disparate systems in order to provide simultaneous sharing of real-time data and to maximize collaboration and communication between states and their neighbors. NCPHI is exploring technologies that would allow states to form cooperative agreements with their neighbors for sharing data in this new way. This federated approach, according to Dr. Lenert, will "allow states to hold on to their own data, and make it available to neighboring states and CDC to run analyses and merge the results on their computers. The data never leaves the state and is merged in real time."

Automated Case Recognition

Rather than using syndromes, NCPHI is focusing this year on assessing expert technologies to help recognize "nationally notifiable conditions of possible threat to the United States." The question, according to Dr. Lenert, is "How can we move away from the notion of performing surveillance for influenza-like illness and actually look for people who we think might have anthrax?" NCPHI is examining the flow of data in hospitals to HL7 messaging and adding expert system technologies to it that will allow BioSense to recognize cases.

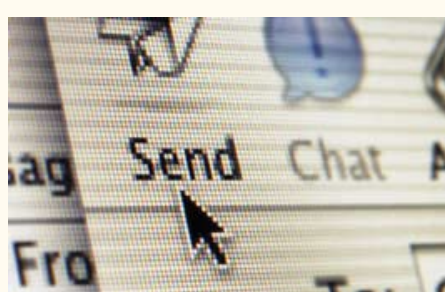
Working with HIEs and RHIOs

Funding cuts to the BioSense Program have indirectly created an opportunity for NCPHI to work with health information exchanges (HIEs) and regional health information organizations (RHIOs) as additional data sources. "Working with these partners, along with state and local public health will enable BioSense to become a system of interoperable surveillance systems," says Dr. Lenert.

At the end of our interview with Dr. Lenert, he expressed great interest in collecting your positive experiences using the BioSense program. "I really want to hear BioSense success stories," said Dr. Lenert. "Have people send them to me directly." Read on below to find out more about the program that we have set up to collect these stories.

BioSpotlight

We are interested in collecting and documenting the achievements and value of BioSense in support of emergency preparedness and response. The experiences detailed by our users, stakeholders,



partners, and the media at the state, local and national levels will help shape the BioSense Program moving forward.

If you are interested in submitting your success story to BioSense, please e-mail biosenseusers@cdc.gov.

BioBytes

Real Time, Real Talk Teleconference

Save the date! The next Real Time, Real Talk teleconference will be held July 11, 2008, 2-3 p.m. (EDT). Real Time, Real Talk is an opportunity for you, your peers and BioSense leadership to discuss the BioSense program, share ideas and collaborate.

The previous Real Time, Real Talk teleconference featured Dean Lampman from Tarrant County Public Health/ Southwest Center for Advanced Public Health Practice (APC), who discussed how BioSense is being used in Texas and Gabriel Rainisch, from the CDC BioIntelligence Center, who talked about the BioIntelligence Center's work during the California Wildfires.



More information about the July 11th event is forthcoming.

Algorithm Webinar Announced

You talked, and we listened. On Tuesday, July 15th, 2008, Dr. Jerome Tokars, BioSense's Associate Director for Science, will host a webinar on the analysis algorithms used in the BioSense application. We expect a large attendance for this webinar and ask that you contact Matt Miller, biosensehelp@cdc.gov, if you are interested in attending.

Time has been allocated for questions and answers at the end of the session and this webinar will be recorded and placed on the BioSense Training page.

In addition, join us July 22, 2008 for a new approach to BioSense webinar training. Save the date and watch your email for more information. If you are not on our email list, please send a message to biosensehelp@cdc.gov.

BioSense Webpage Redesign

The BioSense team is in the process of redesigning the BioSense webpage (www.cdc.gov/biosense). Plans are underway to rearrange content, add more interactive elements and replace some of the text elements with multimedia. You can get a taste of what's to come by heading over to the new Training page (www.cdc.gov/biosense/training.htm). Spend some time there and check out the useful documents and webinars.

We will continue to update you as we move through this process. Please forward your comments or suggestions to biosenseusers@cdc.gov.