PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Introduction

This course is designed to equip participants with the knowledge, practical skills, and leadership competencies required to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies. The programme provides a comprehensive understanding of emergency preparedness frameworks, disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, emergency coordination, risk communication, and health system resilience in accordance with international best practices. Participants will explore the principles of emergency management across the preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation phases. The course examines public health emergency operations, incident management systems, emergency logistics, infection prevention and control, emergency risk communication, humanitarian coordination, and the use of digital technologies for emergency preparedness and response.

Course Objectives

- Understand public health emergency preparedness and response frameworks.
- Strengthen disease surveillance and early warning systems.
- Coordinate effective emergency response using incident management systems.
- Conduct outbreak investigations and rapid risk assessments.
- Strengthen emergency risk communication and community engagement.
- Improve infection prevention and control during emergencies.
- Manage emergency logistics, resources, and coordination mechanisms.
- Promote health system resilience and recovery planning.
- Apply international standards including the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005).
- Develop organizational emergency preparedness and response plans.

Course Modules

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> Module 1: Introduction to Public Health Emergencies
- Overview of public health emergencies
- Types of emergencies
- Emergency management cycle
- International Health Regulations (IHR 2005)
- Roles of key stakeholders
- Legal and ethical considerations

> Module 2: Preparedness Planning and Health System Resilience
- Preparedness planning
- Emergency preparedness plans
- Business continuity
- Health system resilience
- Resource mapping
- Capacity assessments

> Module 3: Disease Surveillance and Outbreak Investigation
- Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR)
- Early warning systems
- Case definitions
- Outbreak investigation steps
- Field epidemiology
- Rapid risk assessment

> Module 4: Emergency Operations and Incident Management
- Emergency Operations Centres
- Incident Management System (IMS)
- Emergency coordination
- Multi-sectoral collaboration
- Emergency logistics
- Resource mobilization

> Module 5: Infection Prevention, Control and Clinical Response
- Infection prevention and control
- Personal protective equipment
- Isolation and quarantine
- Case management

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- Laboratory coordination
- Occupational safety

> Module 6: Risk Communication and Community Engagement
- Emergency risk communication
- Managing misinformation
- Community engagement
- Media relations
- Behavior change communication
- Psychosocial considerations

> Module 7: Humanitarian Response, Recovery and Evaluation
- Humanitarian coordination
- Recovery planning
- After-action reviews
- Lessons learned
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Continuous improvement

> Module 8: Emerging Threats and Future Preparedness
- Pandemic preparedness
- Climate-related health emergencies
- Antimicrobial resistance
- One Health approach
- Digital health technologies
- Future preparedness priorities

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