



NBPHE to Launch Certification Program for Disease Intervention Specialists

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 21, 2022 - The National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) is proud to announce that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has funded the development of a certification program for Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS). The DIS Certification Program is supported by the CDC through a Cooperative Agreement awarded to the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) and sub-awarded to NBPHE. The goal of the DIS certification is to improve public health services provided to communities by DIS through a high quality, standardized approach to the professional development of this workforce. Certification can standardize and validate the knowledge, skills, and abilities of DIS; drive the standardization and improvement of training; increase the quality and consistency of service delivery; and increase recognition of the skills and abilities of DIS.

The DIS Certification Advisory Committee is being assembled to guide the development of the certification program. Members of the advisory committee include:

- Kaye Bender, PhD, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, Mississippi Public Health Association
- Alexis Charpentier, Director, Prevention, National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
- Amanda Dennison, MPH, Senior Director, Programs, National Coalition of STD Directors
- Paul Halverson, DrPH, FACHE, Founding Dean, Indiana University Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health - Indianapolis
- Rita Isabel Lechuga, MD, MPH, Associate Director, Hepatitis, National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
- Leandro A. Mena, MD, MPH, FIDSA, Director, Division of STD Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Dana C. Nguyen, BSN, RN, CIC, Clark County Health Dept. in Washington, Program Mgr. II Infection Prevention & COVID19 Response
- Shirley Orr, MHS, APRN, NEA-BC, Executive Director, Association of Public Health Nurses
- Pauline Rolle, MD, MPH, CPH, Medical Director, Ascension Medical Group Pediatric & Southeast Georgia Primary Care
- Lucy Slater, MPH, Senior Director, HIV, STI, Viral Hepatitis, National Association of County & City Health Officials
- Scott Strobel, Section Chief, Disease Intervention, Kansas Department of Health & Environment
- Tawanda Washington, RN, Director of Nursing, Florida Department of Health – Duval County
- Nizar K. Wehbi, MD, MPH, MBA, FACHE, CPH, North Dakota State Health Officer, North Dakota Department of Health
- Donna Hope Wegener, MA, Executive Director, National Tuberculosis Controllers Association
- Catherine H. Zilber, MSc, Vice President for Infectious Disease Programs, CDC Foundation

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- Mona Zuffante, PhD(c), MPH, CPH, Winnebago Chief Public Health Officer, Winnebago Public Health Department, Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System

“This new certification is important because it will help our public health systems recruit, retain and develop a cadre of individuals skilled in this important work,” said Kaye Bender, Chair of the NBPHE Board of Directors. “The pandemic has taught us a lot about the urgency of investing in our workforce and being prepared to meet future challenges. I am proud that the NBPHE will be offering this certification and offer my thanks for our many organizational partners who will be contributing to the development of the certification.”

The DIS certification will be the second certification offered by the National Board of Public Health Examiners. It also manages the Certified in Public Health (CPH) certification, available to those with either a CEPH-accredited graduate degree in public health or those with another degree and prior work experience in public health. Since 2008, over 11,000 public health professionals have earned the CPH credential.

It is anticipated the DIS certification program will be available by 2025. Eligibility criteria, exam content and recertification requirements are under development. The NBPHE is seeking volunteers with Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) experience to develop the content outline and write exam items. [Click here to submit your self-nomination!](#)

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About the National Board of Public Health Examiners

The National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) is dedicated to assuring excellence in public health. NBPHE’s mission is to ensure that public health professionals have mastered the foundational knowledge and skills relevant to contemporary public health through a voluntary certification examination and maintenance of the certification program. For more information on NBPHE, visit www.nbphe.org.