

# ASTHO Learning Community Request for Applications

## Advancing Public Health Surveillance & Electronic Case Reporting

### Summary

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**Purpose:** The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), invites states to apply for a learning community of practice on **Advancing Public Health Surveillance and Electronic Case Reporting (eCR)**. This learning community is designed to develop state/territorial health officials (S/THOs), informatics directors, and agency partners' knowledge and leadership to advance state/territorial (S/T) public health data surveillance and electronic case reporting capacity.

**Request for Applications Released:** January 9, 2019

**Applications Due:** February 11, 2019

**Selection Announcement:** Week of March 4, 2019

**Learning Community Period:** March – June 2019

**Delivery Method:** Virtual online platform and conference line

**Number of Learning Community Participants:** Up to *eight (8) state/territorial health agency (S/THA) teams* consisting of a state health official, informatics director, and policy/legal lead

**ASTHO Point of Contact:** Data Analytics and Public Health Informatics Team  
([Informatics@astho.org](mailto:Informatics@astho.org))

**This Learning Community is supported through a cooperative agreement with CDC.**

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## Program Description

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The goal of this Learning Community is to support S/THOs, informatics directors, and the state health agency's policy/legal leads to assess and develop their surveillance and electronic case reporting technology capacity and policies, and to receive mentorship from other states advancing their eCR capabilities. State and territorial health agencies (S/THA) will have the opportunity to begin, continue, or further their S/T strategic plan around surveillance and bidirectional data exchange with health care.

### The Learning Community objectives for S/THA teams include:

- Develop public health technology strategies and plans to improve population health through surveillance and bidirectional data exchange;
- Create a learning and mentoring environment for sharing progress, challenges, and barriers in developing capacity for surveillance activities, eCR, and bidirectional data exchange with health care; and
- Enhance each S/THO and staff's ability to ensure necessary policies and legal enablers are in place to implement surveillance activities, eCR, and bidirectional data exchange with health care.

ASTHO will form a learning community of practice to include up to eight (8) three-person S/THA teams. ASTHO will provide specific technical assistance for states to advance eCR and bidirectional data exchange with health care. The learning community will consist of **virtual classroom sessions and conference calls** that focus on:

- eCR overview, use case review, and status of current S/THA eCR implementation
- Technology capacity for surveillance, eCR, and bidirectional data exchange
- Data standards and interoperability across the S/THA
- S/THA policy and legal strategies for implementing eCR and bidirectional data exchange with health care

## Program Elements and Expectations

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The ASTHO Advancing Public Health **Surveillance and eCR Learning Community** participants agree to the following program requirements and elements.

- ❖ Each of the S/THA teams must complete the below application to participate. Applications are due by **COB Monday, February 11, 2019, and the first session will be held in March 2019.**
- ❖ Each S/THA team consists of a top-level state/territorial health official leader, the informatics director, and an agency policy/legal lead. Teams will commit to developing or building onto an existing state health IT/informatics roadmap or plan with policy examples to enable implementation of eCR and bidirectional data exchange with health care.

- ❖ All team members commit to attend the virtual classroom sessions and conference calls (ranging from 60 to 90-minutes) from March to June 2019. Team members agree to use the on-camera online video during the virtual classroom sessions to facilitate an optimal learning experience.
- ❖ Session presenters and expert guests will address the learning community's needs and questions related to surveillance, eCR, and bidirectional data exchange. Participants will become familiar with and use as reference, resources and past artifacts/products presented to include those developed by ASTHO, other S/THAs, and CDC (i.e., the [CDC Policy Process](#)).
- ❖ Each team will present a summary of their state health IT/informatics roadmap or plan and policies developed to the group during the final virtual classroom session. Presentations will include progress made, plans for future implementation, policy templates, etc.

## Roadmap and Policy Development Deliverable

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Each virtual session will be recorded, and presentations will be saved for participants' future reference in an online community platform. Participants are invited to join an online my.ASTHO collaboration site to share ongoing experiences and questions throughout and after the Learning Community period.

Each S/THA team will develop or build onto an existing state health IT/informatics roadmap or plan, to include policy processes, templates, or examples for implementing eCR and bidirectional data exchange with health care. ASTHO will provide technical assistance in the form of templates, resources and tools to assist S/T completion of this plan.

### Plan Components:

- Statement of intention: A SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound) goals statement of what the S/T seeks to achieve and accomplish from participating in the Learning Community
- SWOT Analysis: states teams will commit to assessing their strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats to development and implementation of eCR and bidirectional data exchange with health care.
- Policy Landscape Assessment: state teams will review and document all policies, laws, rules and regulations that either enable or detract from eCR implementation and bidirectional data exchange with health care.
- S/T Strategy Overview: a summarized overview of the surveillance and bidirectional data exchange components of the S/T strategic plan, which serves as a foundation for action.

**NOTE:** States will consider allowing deidentified and redacted plans for release for posting on ASTHO's website to serve as examples for other states seeking to advance their surveillance and eCR capacity.

Please complete the application form below and submit to ASTHO's Data Analytics and Public Health Informatics Team at ([Informatics@astho.org](mailto:Informatics@astho.org)) by close of business, **Monday, February 11, 2019**.

# ASTHO Learning Community: Advancing Public Health Surveillance & Electronic Case Reporting

## Application Form

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### Applicant Information

Name:
Title:
Phone:
E-mail:

### State Health Official Lead Information

Name:
Title:
Phone:
E-mail:

### Informatics Director Information

Name:
Title:
Phone:
E-mail:

### Agency Legal/Policy Lead Information

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Email:
Brief description including timing of state legislative cycle:
State Total population:
Racial/ethnic composition:
Median household income:

**State Information: (maximum 200 words per field)**

What are some of the major challenges you face in improving or advancing technology in your state/territory?

What new roles or skills do you need to enhance your effectiveness in developing surveillance, electronic case reporting, or bidirectional data exchange for your state/territory?

Please describe your state/territory's capacity for electronic case reporting and bidirectional data exchange with health care.

Identify three key partners you consider essential to your agency's public health surveillance and bidirectional data exchange activities and describe why they are essential.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Provide additional information relevant to your team's goals to participate in this Learning Community (i.e., past or current work to advance surveillance, key policy advancements or technology assessments).