



Concept Note for Webinars on

“Practical epidemiology for CAREC and Caucasus countries for COVID-19 responses”

Background and focus

This webinar series provides an overview of the current international understanding of the COVID-19 epidemiology. This understanding is evolving almost daily, as highlighted by the high level, evidence-based information updates published regularly by the WHO and CDC and others, which will be accessed and used during this webinar. This reflects a continuous change in our understanding of this disease while also illustrating how international science in medicine is built on principles of data and information-sharing.

The webinar mini-series provides an overview of the most relevant concepts in epidemiology. In addition to theory, we will dive deeper into the practical understanding of COVID-19 transmission using epidemiological terms. The webinars will reflect how these parameters combine together, their relevance for planning preventive and containment measures and for making rational planning decisions on healthcare capacity and preparedness.

The webinars also aim to give participants the opportunity to review what the epidemiology means for vulnerable groups and how these groups' needs are evolving under the pandemic. This includes gender issues, issues regarding groups with high-risk to develop complications due to pre-existing conditions, as well as needs from the perspective of socioeconomic vulnerability.

Target audience

Interested officials and staff at relevant ministries and healthcare organizations in Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) and Caucasus countries involved in planning and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the CAREC Working Group on Health and any other potential stakeholders valuable for the CAREC health dialogue.

Potential participants for whom this will be relevant include (*but is not limited to*) the following:

- Ministry of Health leaders and policy-makers
- Epidemiologists & infection control specialists (eg. Sanitary-Epidemiology Department - SES, National Centres for Disease Control - NCDC)
- Public health staff
- Medical Education Institute teachers of public health, epidemiology and statistics
- Staff in provincial health departments and other key officials who require a more in-depth understanding of COVID-19 epidemiology linked to their responsibilities for surveillance, pandemic/epidemic response and planning.

The nature of the webinars allows for a broad range of people to be targeted. Specifically, the accompanying Case Studies allow people with less pre-existing epidemiological knowledge to learn more about epidemiological terminology and different types of epidemiological studies. For people who already have the pre-existing epidemiological knowledge required to fully



understand the contents of the webinars these Case Studies are optional. Thus, this allows the material to be somewhat tailored to whoever is participating.

Overall learning objectives

1. The participants will become confident to read and understand epidemiological news about the COVID-19 pandemic and other notifiable diseases.
2. Participants shall be familiarized with commonly used terms and concepts of epidemiology describing the current pandemic of COVID-19, based on different types of data-sources, detection and diagnostic approaches in use.
3. Participants shall gain a better understanding of how different intervention methods have differing effects and how to simulate potential effects using an epidemiological modelling tool.

Specific webinar objectives

Recording 1: COVID-19 introduction, situation and epidemiological concepts

- Current COVID-19 situation and case-definition, introducing epidemiological measures such as mortality, case fatality rate, excess mortality, and p-score.
- How do we describe an epidemic or pandemic through the reproductive number? What does R_0 stand for, how is it calculated and what does it tell us about the pandemic?
- How have emerging new variants effected the development of the pandemic and how do these interact with herd immunity and immunizations?
- Case Study 1: Definition and Use of Common Epidemiological Concepts and Terms

Recording 2: COVID-19 surveillance

- Epidemiological reporting based on sentinel surveillance and different types of laboratory testing for COVID-19.
- In-depth presentation of epidemiological severity measures including case fatality rate, mortality rate, excess mortality and p-score.
- Surveillance scale and epidemiological data reliability as well as international comparison of surveillance data.
- Case Study 2: Case-control and Cohort Studies on COVID-19

Recording 3: Epidemiology and planning for health security

- COVID-19 transmission and how knowledge on its transmission can inform suitable options for containment and mitigation strategies.
- How to use surveillance data to select mitigation strategies? What are some examples of strategies employed in different countries?
- What are reliable sources of information that can be used to guide mitigation strategies (e.g. Cochrane)? How can epidemiological modelling be used to help gain an insight into the effects different mitigation strategies may have in a given country?

Workshops



- Answer any questions concerning the material covered in the webinars
- Apply the material covered in the webinars to country-specific contexts and analyze COVID-19 responses and policies being implemented and possibilities for regional cooperation in surveillance



Country Workshops on Webinars for “Practical epidemiology for CAREC and Caucasus countries for COVID-19 responses”

Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan **13 July 2022, 14:30 – 15:45 (Manila time)**
People’s Republic of China **14 July 2022, 14:30 – 15:45 (Manila time)**
Pakistan **14 July 2022, 16:30 – 45 (Manila time)**
Armenia **15 July 2022, 14:30 – 15:45 (Manila time)**
Mongolia **21 July 2022, 14:30 – 15:45 (Manila time)**

AGENDA (Tentative)

Co-Chairs: Dr. Sam Tornquist, Disease Surveillance Expert, ADB consultant, through GOPA Worldwide Consultants
Mr. Raphael Broniatowski, Senior Project Manager, ADB consultant, GOPA Worldwide Consultants, Health and Social Development Department
Ms. Carlotta Fack, Junior Project Manager, ADB consultant, GOPA Worldwide Consultants, Health and Social Development Department

Co-Moderators: GOPA National Consultants

Objective: To discuss and establish a common understanding of the pre-recorded webinar material, and apply the material to country-specific settings.

Time (Manila)	Session (moderators and speakers to be determined)
14:00 – 14:30 / 16:00 – 16:30	Signing up and video/audio connection checks
14:30 / 16:30	Welcome & Introduction Session
14:35 / 16:35	Answering Questions on Webinar Material
14:55 / 16:55	Guiding Questions to Apply Information from Webinar to Country Contexts - Please find these questions attached as an annex to the agenda



15:20 / 17:20	Open Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The focus will lie on discussing regional cooperation ideas in the realm of the COVID-19 response
15:45 / 17:45	Closing Remarks