

DIS Certification:

Grow Your Career, Serve Your Community



IS DIS CERTIFICATION FOR YOU?

There is a new certification program for Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS). This non-licensed public health professional workforce has historically worked in key components of STD and HIV related services; tuberculosis outbreak response; STD exposure notification; other infectious disease control efforts; collaboration with medical providers; and emergency preparedness and response. If you work in these areas, you may be eligible for certification.

Advancing Your Career

Certification could result in an increase in professional reputation and prestige, ensuring that your health department contributions are recognized. Certification also standardizes DIS job competencies, potentially making it easier to transfer skills across state lines and jurisdictions, and increasing job mobility.

Strengthening the Workforce

Certification can support public health department accreditation efforts by increasing practice efficacy, as a more effective workforce supports the foundational public health services for each community. Certification can also provide additional opportunities for reimbursement, ensuring each department has the right resources to carry out its mission.

The DIS Certification Project



The Public Health Accreditation Board, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), managed the DIS Certification Project to determine whether professional certification was right for DIS. This project has been informed by members of a National Advisory Committee; a group of DIS Subject Matter Experts (SMEs); and national partner organization representatives.

It began with numerous interviews and focus groups that concluded certification would benefit DIS and public health, and be feasible. During the assessment phase, the project conducted a Job Task Analysis (JTA) to define the DIS job role and function; conducted a DIS Enumeration to quantify the field; created a DIS registry to connect with identified DIS; developed three potential models for certification; and overlaid DIS certification with the health department accreditation standards. During the next phase of work, several organizations will be working together to implement the test-model of certification.

Get Ready for Certification

You can review the **Job Task Analysis results and the template job description**, take advantage of any **training sessions**, and monitor www.phaboard.org/dis for the latest information on the certifying organization and the process.