

Epidemiological Response Team (ERT)

DOH agency wide recruitment begins January 22, 2019

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The Epidemiological Response Team (ERT) is comprised of DOH staff interested and/or experienced in public health emergency management and/or disaster epidemiology.
- The ERT is a modular, scalable response team, capable of activating during all phases of local, regional and national all-hazards incidents (natural or man-made).
- The ERT may be requested and deployed when the magnitude of an incident exceeds local capabilities and resources required to independently manage the incident response.
- The ERT will rapidly assess urgent health needs, match those needs with available resources, provide decision-makers with actionable information, and minimize adverse health impacts and outcomes.
- DOH staff are encouraged to apply to each position that aligns with their skills, education, and/or expertise. Position descriptions are available on the [ERT SharePoint site](#).

RECRUITMENT FAQ's

- How do I begin the application process?**
Member applications, position descriptions, and information session details are available on the [ERT SharePoint site](#).
- Do I need to reapply each year?**
Yes. ERT members will be contacted annually with dates and instructions for renewing membership.
- If requested for deployment, will my supervisor approve my absence?**
ERT applicants are required to review, complete and submit the [ERT Benefits and Expectations Agreement](#). This will confirm that supervisors are aware, in-agreement, and prepared to support staff serving as ERT members.
- If deployed, how long will I be away from my home base?**
ERT members may be deployed for up to 14-business days. ERT members may be activated, but not deployed away from home base depending on their role.
- If I have personal and/or work conflicts, will I be required to activate or deploy?**
Activation and deployment are assessed on a case-by-case scenario. ERT members are critical volunteers to an incident, therefore personal and/or work conflicts will be discussed with each member.

EXPECTATION FAQ's

- How much time and commitment is required annually to serve on the ERT?**
Time commitment is dependent on training, education, and availability of each applicant. ERT meetings and trainings will be offered online or by webinar.
 - At minimum, ERT members are expected to commit four (4) hours per month to ERT related meetings and/or trainings.
 - Members are expected to attend/complete 75% of the annual meetings, trainings and/or related activities.
- What ERT team positions are available?**
There are five major positions on the ERT: (1) Team Leader, (2) Field Epidemiologist, (3) IT/Informatics Specialist, (4) Interviewer, and (5) Data Entry Specialist.
- What education, skills, and expertise is required to serve on the ERT?**
ERT members will be eligible for activation upon completion of position-specific trainings. Position-specific trainings will be outlined within the first month of ERT membership.

FUTURE WORK FAQ's

- When and where might the ERT deploy?**
The ERT is capable of deploying locally, nationally, or activated remotely to assist local jurisdiction(s) and/or state(s). ERT activation may result in the deployment of a single resource, a full team, or multiple response teams.
- What tools and methods will I be trained to use?**
Operational activities executed by the ERT will be highly-dependent on the nature of the incident. ERT members will receive training in: public health surveillance, rapid needs assessments, and the use of registries and tracking systems.
- What would I gain by serving on the ERT?**
ERT members will be trained to serve the public during times of crisis, employ cutting-edge incident management tools and methods, cultivate emergency response expertise, and cross collaborate with internal and external partners.
- If I am grant funded, can I serve on the ERT?**
Grant spending rules will be evaluated for all ERT members who are grant-funded. For out-of-state deployment, DOH is reimbursed by assisted state(s). Therefore, grant funded ERT members who respond to out-of-state incidents do not incur in-state expenses. In-state deployment will be coordinated through the DOH IMT, and will be dependent on the type and degree of each incident.

