

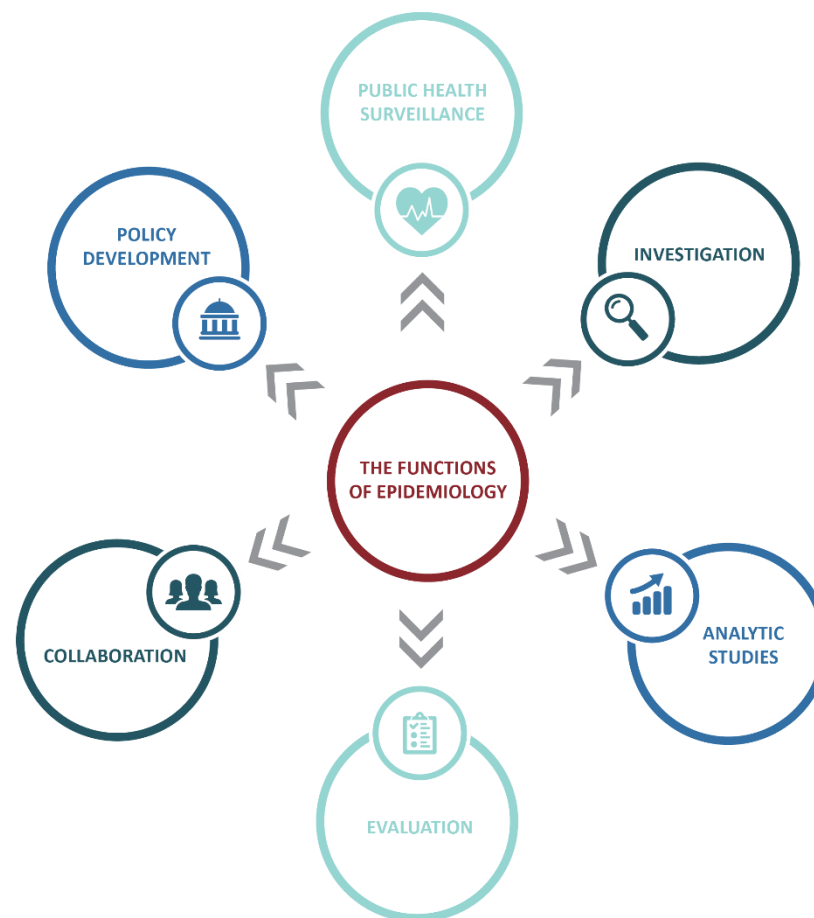
MAKING CONTACT:

A Training for COVID-19 Case Investigators and Contact Tracers

THE FUNCTIONS OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

Epidemiology is the study of the patterns and causes of health conditions among populations, and the use of that information to address health problems. There are six major functions of epidemiology in public health:

- **Public Health Surveillance:** The ongoing, collection, examination, interpretation, and use of health data to help guide decision-making and action.
- **Investigation:** After a case or cluster is identified, a public health department will often start an investigation. These investigations may lead to additional people who might not otherwise know that their health is at risk.
- **Analytic Studies:** A detailed examination (an analysis) is sometimes needed to dig a little deeper into the information that has been collected. Epidemiologists are trained to do analytic studies, as well as interpret and communicate findings from those studies.
- **Evaluation:** Involves determining the effectiveness and impact of activities. This information can be used to improve future public health action.
- **Collaboration:** Epidemiology is a “team sport.” Collaboration can help ensure that information flows well between public health professionals, healthcare workers, and other members of the community.
- **Policy Development:** Public health epidemiologists often provide input and recommendations about disease control strategies and healthcare policy.



Adapted from: CDC. "Principles of Epidemiology in Public Health Practice."

Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/csels/dsepd/ss1978/SS1978.pdf>