

20. Investigation of Acute Public Health Events											
Basic			Developing			Advanced			Leading Edge		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Strategic Direction	The NPHI's role in supporting outbreak investigations is unclear.		The NPHI has a defined role in investigating outbreaks, but it has difficulty fulfilling it due to lack of systems and resources.			The NPHI's importance in investigating outbreaks is widely appreciated. It has worked strategically to develop systems and resources to ensure high-quality and timely investigations.			The NPHI strives to be at the cutting edge in outbreak investigation. It tests new tools and approaches and disseminates information about what does and doesn't work.		
Systems	The NPHI has limited experience in outbreak investigations, and few protocols, templates, or SOPs.		The NPHI has some SOPs to guide acute event investigations (e.g., for collection, transport, testing of specimens), but these are not always used. The NPHI works with other sectors or groups in investigations on an ad hoc basis.			The NPHI has sample questionnaires, data entry systems, and other tools for investigating acute events. Formal agreements are in place for some types of joint investigations (e.g., with agriculture agencies for investigation of food-borne outbreaks).			The NPHI incorporates new technologies and approaches for data collection and analysis. Formal partnerships with other governmental agencies and domestic and international organizations formalize the NPHI's role in domestic and international investigations.		
Resources	The NPHI has limited resources to respond to acute events. It rarely deploys staff or collects specimens, and is generally unable to support laboratory testing for confirming causes of outbreaks.		The NPHI has designated resources for investigating high-profile acute events. Many events are not investigated because of lack of personnel, transport, supplies, or equipment. Laboratory testing is available for some causes of outbreaks, especially those that are funded by donors (e.g., malaria).			The NPHI has established rapid response teams. The NPHI has sufficient capacity to investigate most acute events without compromising other work. Resources are usually available to support laboratory confirmation.			The NPHI has established an incident management system and rapid response teams. It has sufficient capacity to support very intensive investigations domestically and globally. It has experts on staff to assist with specialized needs (e.g., specialized lab testing, complex risk communications issues).		
Quality	Investigation of acute events often lack the quality and depth required to inform interventions and prevent future outbreaks.		The quality and completeness of the NPHI's investigations vary by event. Resource limitations prevent or compromise the investigation of some events.			Multidisciplinary and high-quality investigations lead to rapid identification of etiologies and contributing factors in acute events.			High-quality data collection and specialized laboratory testing (e.g., genetic profiling of organisms) enables the NPHI to investigate and rapidly understand even the most challenging acute public health event. The NPHI's assistance is sought by organizations throughout the world.		
Engagement	The NPHI sometimes engages local public health staff in investigations, for example, for information about local conditions or for translation. Communications and updates about the event and investigation are slow to reach stakeholders and the public.		The NPHI works in full partnership with local public health staff during investigations. The NPHI communicates regularly with the MOH and selected stakeholders. However, many who could be part of an investigation are left out.			The NPHI partners with a range of organizations in investigations, including local public health staff and people from other sectors, as appropriate. Communication and coordination with the MOH, stakeholders, and the public is considered a routine part of acute event response.			Investigations often involve multidisciplinary teams from many organizations. The NPHI's ongoing investments in partnership building during non-crisis times help to mobilize a range of resources and ensure well-coordinated communications.		
Impact	The NPHI completes few investigations, and those are often inconclusive and have limited impact on public health.		The NPHI conducts several investigations a year. Some of these have clearly identified the causes of the event. The NPHI occasionally uses investigation findings to inform prevention efforts.			The NPHI conducts many investigations of acute events. Most of these are complete and of high quality. They often lead to effective interventions or prevention of future occurrences.			The NPHI is a resource for acute event investigations for a range of organizations (governmental, industry, etc.) domestically and globally. The NPHI's approaches and tools are adopted by other organizations, contributing to high-quality investigations. Its investigations have measurable national and international impacts.		