

DIS Certification:

Supporting Our Community



Who are DIS?

Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS), are a critical part of keeping our community healthy. DIS are public health professionals who have expertise in disease control and engage directly with the public.

DIS are usually not doctors or nurses, but their vital role on the public health team helps public health departments keep communities healthy. They come from diverse backgrounds and bring a valuable set of skills and experiences. There are currently over 1,650 DIS in the U.S.

Why are DIS important?

DIS investigate and track STD, HIV, and TB in communities, prepare for and prevent infectious disease outbreaks, help link patients to healthcare services, and support emergency response efforts.

DIS in Action

In 2014, an American doctor treating Ebola patients in Guinea, with Doctors without Borders, reported early Ebola symptoms when he returned home to New York. To avoid further infections, DIS were responsible for tracking down people he had encountered and tracing his whereabouts throughout the city. Their investigative work, together with New York City and CDC's treatment, helped contain this highly contagious disease. This is just one example of DIS in action.

Certifying DIS

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) has assembled a group of expert organizations in public health to study certification of DIS. Certification of the DIS workforce can improve community public health services through a high-quality, standardized approach to DIS professional development. Many professions offer certification to demonstrate that professionals have mastered specific skills. For example, nurses can obtain specialty certifications (such as Certified Nurse Midwife), and EMTs hold national certification.

Certification will help the DIS workforce, the public health departments in which they serve, and communities.

Learn More

If you are interested in learning more about DIS or about certification, please visit www.phaboard.org/dis.