



Project Firstline Grant Final Report

The New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials considered it a privilege to be selected by the NJDOH to be one of the four grantees to provide Infection Control Training utilizing the Project Firstline program.

As of 9/30/2022, NJACCHO has provided 36 single session trainings, 9 Train the Trainer (TtT) sessions, and has provided Infection Control instruction to a total enrollment of 1,070.

Training topics included NJACCHO's exclusive Train the Trainer program, a 3 hour live-online and 5 hour asynchronous training program designed to instruct trainees about basic IPC principles as well as adult training methodologies and Optimized Standards of Care basics. The course equips trainees to take the principles they've learned and lead Infection Control trainings.

Additional topics were The Basics of Infection Control, The Basic Science of Viruses, How Respiratory Droplets Spread COVID-19, How Viruses Spread from Surfaces to People, Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection, PPE - Eye Protection, PPE - Gloves and Gowns, PPE - Respirators, Hand Hygiene, Virus Strains, Source Control, Asymptomatic Spread of COVID-19, Reservoirs and Recognizing Risks, How Germs Make People Sick, Recognizing Risks Using Reservoirs: A Review, How COVID-19 Spreads and Why Ventilation Matters.

Public Health CEs for Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) and Health Officers as well as Continuing Education Contact Hours (CECH) for Certified (& Master) Health Education Specialists were provided. Single session attendees were awarded 1 Public Health CE and Train the trainer attendees were awarded 8 Public Health CEs and/or 8 CECH credits upon completion.

[Session Feedback Forms](#) were provided to trainees. Overall, feedback on the sessions was very positive. Overwhelmingly, attendees agreed that the presenters were well organized and approachable (98%), session topics were related to their work (94%), their understanding of the session topics improved as a result of the training (95%), they would recommend the sessions to colleagues (95%), and that they intended to implement what they learned into daily practice (95%).

[Trainee comments](#) also provided useful feedback on what was going well and what needed improvement with the program. The majority of the comments were positive, but observations and suggestions for improvement were also provided. They included:

- Breakout rooms would be more effective if they were facilitated
- Discussion questions should be more oriented to real life situations of current audience
- Request for infection control training topics beyond COVID-19
- Request for TtT to provide additional info on Crisis Standards of Care and adult teaching methods
- Request for advanced level infection control topics

At the conclusion of the grant period, NJACCHO provided a [Project Firstline Final Evaluation](#) that queried trainees and LHDs regarding their experience with NJACCHO's Project Firstline program as well as what subjects they would like to be trained on in the future. Respondents felt that the NJACCHO Project Firstline training they received was either "Excellent" 22/35 (63%) or "Good" 13/35 (37%). Of those surveyed that took the TtT, they felt that the asynchronous format was either "Excellent" 6/13 (46%), "Good" 6/13 (46%), or "Fair" 1/13 (8%). Seventy-one percent (25/35) of respondents would prefer to continue to be trained virtually, 23% (8/35) would prefer to be trained in person and 6% (2/35) would like a hybrid training format. A question was included to gauge interest in future advanced level training topics. The top three areas of interest were Norovirus, Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus, and Group A Streptococcus. This information is important as NJACCHO will continue to provide valuable training for local health departments in the future.

NJACCHO appreciated being selected for this grant and feels that it was very successful at providing NJ's LHD personnel with the requisite knowledge needed to continue to respond to infection control needs from COVID-19 as well as other existing and/or emerging infectious disease threats. Additionally, NJACCHO's Train the Trainer model and learning platform were highly regarded by NJDOH personnel and other Project Firstline grantees.