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## INVESTIGATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS: EXPERIENCE IN DESIGNING GUIDELINES

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### **Introduction.**

Epidemiological surveillance for infectious diseases has been identified as one of the global priorities, in line with the 7th objective of the WHO European Health Office 21 Program: A Health Policy for All in the 21st Century WHO European Region, which sets out the main provisions on elimination and eradication, as well as the control of infectious diseases that pose a public health problem. [1] Achieving the goal of surveillance depends on the quality of management of anti-epidemic measures, including the investigation of outbreaks of infectious diseases. The urgency of the problem in Ukraine is quite significant, so, in 2012 – 2018, 22,936 people were affected by outbreaks of infectious diseases, including 66,9% of children under 15 years.

### **Methods.**

The systematic approach methodology and the bibliosemantic method have been applied.

### **Results.**

Documents of international organizations, international treaties ratified by Ukraine, regulatory documents of Ukraine, as well as scientific publications on the topic of investigation of infectious disease outbreaks are analyzed with the purpose of using them as components of the systemogenesis algorithm.

In the current regulatory documents of Ukraine, the procedure (algorithm) for the investigation of outbreaks is not defined.

Often the investigation takes place in the field, far from the conveniences and routines one counts on in the office. Under these circumstances, it is essential to have a systematic plan for conducting the investigation [2].

Investigation of infectious disease outbreaks in accordance with international instruments is a comprehensive approach and is based on the following stages: deciding whether to respond to a signal or event and how;

preparation; detection of a flash; confirmation of the diagnosis; working out case definition; systematic case search and data logging; working hypothesis development; evaluation of hypotheses from epidemiological point of view; the use of descriptive epidemiology methods; comparison/reconciliation with laboratory tests; implementation of control and prevention measures; initiation or continuation of supervision; reporting.

The relative emphasis placed on each component varies depending on the circumstances of the outbreak. These guidelines recognise that the components need not always occur in a rigid, linear sequence to meet the overall objectives of disease outbreak management [3].

The stages are characterized by a systematic approach to managing the flash, that is, taking actions aimed at achieving the goal set by the researcher.

The recommendations are clearly structured and detail the investigation procedure, which minimizes the impact on staff change work and is evidence-based.

The outbreak plan should identify the outbreak team, describe terms of reference for the team [3].

#### **Conclusions.**

A significant problematic issue of the existing legal framework in Ukraine is the lack of an order (algorithm) for investigating outbreaks.

Therefore, it is necessary to develop, on the basis of the legislation of Ukraine on public health, in the light of current scientific data and practical experience, methodological recommendations for the investigation of outbreaks that would meet international standards and socio-economic conditions in Ukraine.

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