

MODULE 8

Health Alert Network

Public Health Communication and Surveillance

Bioterrorism Preparedness for Nevada Nurses

4.0 Contact Hours | Nevada Board of Nursing Approved

Provider: NV-14175 | NAC 632.340 & NAC 632.355

Learning Objectives

1	Describe the Health Alert Network (HAN) structure and message types
2	Identify nurse responsibilities for disease reporting in Nevada
3	Understand syndromic surveillance systems
4	Recognize when and how to report unusual disease clusters

Health Alert Network (HAN)

The CDC's Health Alert Network is the primary method for sharing urgent public health information with clinicians, public health professionals, and emergency responders.

Message Type	Urgency	Purpose
Health Alert	HIGHEST	Immediate action required
Health Advisory	Moderate	Important situation information
Health Update	Lower	Updated recommendations

Nurse Reporting Responsibilities

Nevada nurses must report to local/state health department:

- Unusual clusters of similar symptoms
- Suspected Category A agent exposure
- Any pattern suggesting intentional release
- Rare diseases in healthy individuals

Reporting Hierarchy: Charge Nurse → Infection Control → Administration → Local Health Dept → State Health → CDC

■ IMMEDIATE REPORTING

DO NOT WAIT for laboratory confirmation before reporting! Early notification allows public health to begin investigation and response.



- ✓ HAN is CDC's primary system for urgent public health communication
- ✓ Health Alert = highest urgency requiring immediate action
- ✓ Report unusual disease clusters immediately - don't wait for lab confirmation
- ✓ Nevada nurses have legal duty to report suspected bioterrorism