

Disease outbreak preparedness and response: Education experiences and ideas

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Q&A - Briëtte du Toit, Infection Control African Network, South Africa



1) Can IPC training be incorporated into existing local primary health care

services? Yes, it can certainly and it is the ideal, but it will require redesign of the existing curriculum.

2) How can we sustain such trainings in community? One will have to understand your local needs and circumstances and I am not sure if you are referring to training of the community or healthcare workers working in community setting e.g. primary healthcare settings.

3) Is partnership with organisations in Uganda a possibility to deliver IPC trainings? Yes, it certainly is. Usually this is done via the Ministry of Health, WHO, CDC or private organisations. You are welcome to send me an e-mail and I will direct you to the appropriate person: Briette@icanetwork.co.za

4) Are there in person class components on the IPC courses or are they all entirely online? The ICAN courses have always been face-to-face. We started late last year to present the courses via zoom and we have refined it this year. At the moment we have students from all over Africa and the presentations, assessments, etc are all done online.

5) Outbreaks are overwhelming, and most hospitals are understaffed. Training is a good option, but what about ICAN thinking about increasing manpower? Unfortunately, ICAN is not in a position to increase manpower in institutions. We can however assist to evaluate the situation and provide recommendations on how to manage these outbreaks.

6) How can you access the IPC course? If you are interested, we can provide you with the course brochures. You are welcome to send me an e-mail: Briette@icanetwork.co.za

Alternatively, you can also find the information on the ICAN website: <http://www.icanetwork.co.za/>

7) How did you overcome cultural challenges and how did you foster cultural sensitivity while implementing the education programs? It is important to try and understand the local culture and beliefs and take it into consideration. A person from outside will not be able to change the culture and when designing programmes, one has to be cognisant of the culture. It is important to involve community leaders and get their input when programmes are designed, because they are in a position to influence the people in the community.