

Section	Contents
1. Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geographical location Climatic conditions Demographic status (population pyramid) Socio-economic situation Organization of health services Surveillance and early warning systems Normal disease prevalence.
2. Historical data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous occurrence of epidemics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – of the same disease, – locally or elsewhere Occurrence of related diseases, if any <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – in the same area – in other areas Discovery of the first cases of the present outbreak.
3. Methodology of investigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case definition Questionnaire used in epidemiological investigation Survey teams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household survey Retrospective survey Prospective surveillance Collection of laboratory specimens Laboratory techniques
4. Analysis of data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – frequency of signs and symptoms – course of disease – differential diagnosis – death or sequelae rates Epidemiological data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – mode of occurrence – in time – by place – by population groups Modes of transmission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – source(s) of infection – route(s) of excretion and portal(s) of entry – factors influencing transmission Laboratory data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – isolation of agent(s) – serological confirmation – significance of results Interpretation of data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – comprehensive picture of the outbreak – hypotheses as to cause(s) – Formulation and testing of hypotheses by statistical analysis.
5. Control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition of strategies and methodology of implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – constraints – results Evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – significance of results – cost/effectiveness Preventive measures.