

"It is important to express our gratitude for the quality information that is offered to us through this medium and that contributes to improve our daily tasks in order to offer the best to patients and their families."

- OpenWHO user, SocialNet course (translated from Spanish)

OpenWHO News

The latest from WHO's open learning platform

HIGHLIGHTS

OpenWHO reaches 6 million course enrolments, a 3650% increase since the start of the COVID-19 emergency (p.1)

African Region partners with OpenWHO on multilingual Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response training package (p.2)

Peer-reviewed paper finds more equitable reach of public health education during the pandemic (p.2)

OpenWHO feature enables WHO experts to offer training to targeted audiences (p.3)

Celebrating 6 million course enrolments

OpenWHO is marking a new milestone in its efforts to expand the global reach of life-saving knowledge for health emergencies: 6 million course enrolments!

The COVID-19 pandemic brought a surge in demand for WHO's free online learning platform, which counted 160 000 enrolments at the start of 2020. OpenWHO has served as a growing source of knowledge for demographics that are typically underserved online, including women and the elderly as they actively seek information about COVID-19.

Learning reach has also extended beyond the online platform as countries and communities adapt materials to local contexts and offline demands to bypass technological and connectivity barriers, creating a multiplier effect that advances equity.

The platform currently hosts 39 [COVID-19 courses](#) and 81 courses on other [key health topics](#), and has issued more than 3.2 million certificates.

LATEST COURSES



Introduction to Marburg Virus Disease



Infection prevention and control in maternal and neonatal care



Influenza prevention and control



Peer-reviewed paper highlights pandemic shifts in learner demographics

A peer-reviewed article analysing changes in OpenWHO user trends before and during the COVID-19 pandemic was published this month in IOS Press as part of the 2021 European Federation for Medical Informatics Special Topic Conference.

The paper concluded: "The pandemic has led to increased learner commitment and new learners from the general public and those vulnerable to the disease, thus expanding and equalizing public health education to previously underrepresented groups. Open online learning ensures the wide access to emergency knowledge for both professionals in public health and to the general public."

You can read the full open-access paper [here](#).

Expanding surveillance and response capacity in the African Region

OpenWHO is collaborating with the WHO Regional Office for Africa (AFRO) on the production of an Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) 3rd Edition [online training package](#), which will consist of 5 courses in English, French and Portuguese.

To date, all 5 courses in the English series, Courses 1 and 2 in the French series and Course 1 in the Portuguese series are available on OpenWHO. In total, the courses have more than 10 000 enrolments, with more than 3900 Records of Achievement and 4100 Confirmation of Participation certificates issued. We plan to launch all courses in French and Portuguese by early 2022.

The aims of the training package are to contribute to the implementation of the [AFRO IDSR Strategy 2020–2030](#). This Strategy was adopted in 2019 during the 69th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, by countries in the WHO African Region, for implementing comprehensive public health surveillance and response systems for priority diseases, conditions and events at all levels of health systems.

The IDSR online training package is part of a comprehensive AFRO IDSR capacity-building programme, which also includes Project ECHO virtual training sessions and webinars, and case-based and remote Communities of Practice.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought an exponential surge of learners to OpenWHO.org and expanded public health learning to previously **underrepresented** groups:

- Women
- Learners age 70+
- Learners younger than 20

The pandemic also led to increased learner commitment, with learners more likely to complete courses than prior to the pandemic.

OpenWHO.org learning platform

Free of charge

Self-paced

Accessible

Multilingual



WHO's interactive, web-based, knowledge-transfer platform offering online courses to improve the response to health emergencies

Launched in 2017 to facilitate the transfer of life-saving knowledge on a massive scale in anticipation of the next pandemic

Has served frontline responders in outbreaks from Ebola to plague, with rapid growth during COVID-19

OpenWHO.org by



World Health Organization

Prioritizing access to learning has enabled OpenWHO to have tremendous reach in line with WHO's mission to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable. Grounded in the principles of open access and equity, courses are free, self-paced, accessible in low-bandwidth and offline formats, and available in national and local languages.

In addition to these core features, OpenWHO also provides closed online training spaces to enable WHO experts to provide targeted learning to specific audiences. WHO colleagues who are interested can contact the OpenWHO team for additional details.

OpenWHO: Targeted training in closed spaces

Enables WHO teams to provide targeted online learning to closed training audiences.



- Hidden learning spaces can be created on OpenWHO to be shared with targeted learners only
- Often used in combination with face-to-face or webinar-style training for a blended learning approach
- Suitable for online learning formats, supplementary resources, collaboration spaces, peer assessments
- Provides a closed space for targeted participants to interact and exchange

OpenWHO.org by



World Health Organization