Surveillance and Disease Reporting Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- **Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,**
- **Improve accuracy and speed,**
- **Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and**
- **Approach the exam with greater confidence.**

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here’s how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don’t just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There’s no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

1. Which statement best describes the structure of the Avian Influenza Live Bird Marketing System?

A. It is a voluntary federal-state-industry program with guidance provided through program standards

B. It has no formal structure

C. It operates without government involvement

D. It is a private-sector initiative with no government involvement

2. Surveillance data are typically used for which of the following?

A. Marketing campaigns

B. Population-level action

C. Individual clinical decisions

D. Legal prosecutions

3. For USDA-approved products, such as animal vaccines, to whom should you report the adverse event first?

A. FDA

B. NPIC

C. Manufacturer

D. EPA

4. Which entity has authority grounded in the US Constitution?

A. Counties

B. Municipalities

C. States

D. Federal government

5. Which of the following is an example of a USDA-regulated veterinary biologic?

A. Vaccines

B. Antibiotics

C. Houseplants

D. Fertilizers

6. Which CDC program provides the public health infrastructure to monitor infectious diseases through wastewater across the country?

A. NWSS

B. VAERS

C. AERS

D. Registries

7. What is an example of active surveillance for avian influenza?

A. Avian Influenza Live Bird Marketing System

B. National Milk Testing Strategy

C. Syndromic surveillance

D. Environmental fecal sampling

8. Which of the following is NOT one of the five pathogens tracked by NWSS?

A. Measles

B. Influenza

C. RSV

D. Hepatitis B

9. Which animals are put out and periodically tested for antibody conversion to arthropod-borne viruses such as St. Louis Encephalitis virus or Western Equine Encephalitis virus?

A. Sentinel dogs

B. Sentinel cows

C. Sentinel horses

D. Sentinel chickens

10. Which agencies have passive surveillance systems?

A. FDA's Adverse Events Reporting System (AERS)

B. CDC's National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS)

C. Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS)

D. Both AERS and VAERS

Answers

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. A
6. A
7. A
8. D
9. D
10. D

Explanations

1. Which statement best describes the structure of the Avian Influenza Live Bird Marketing System?

A. It is a voluntary federal-state-industry program with guidance provided through program standards

B. It has no formal structure

C. It operates without government involvement

D. It is a private-sector initiative with no government involvement

This is about how the Avian Influenza Live Bird Marketing System is organized. It operates as a voluntary partnership among federal, state, and industry stakeholders, with guidance provided through program standards. Participation is encouraged and guided by these standards rather than mandated, while government involvement ensures consistency, oversight, and public health protection. This structure allows industry practices to align with public health goals without imposing rigid, one-size-fits-all rules, and it relies on clear standards to define biosecurity, reporting, and compliance. It isn't a non-existent formal structure, and it isn't purely private with no government input.

2. Surveillance data are typically used for which of the following?

A. Marketing campaigns

B. Population-level action

C. Individual clinical decisions

D. Legal prosecutions

Surveillance data are designed to track health events across a population, not to guide treatment for a single patient. By collecting and aggregating information from many people over time and across places, public health officials can see trends, detect outbreaks early, monitor disease burden, and decide where to focus resources or what interventions to deploy for the whole community. This population-level view helps inform actions such as vaccination campaigns, outbreak containment, and policy decisions to protect public health. Marketing campaigns focus on consumer behavior, not public health trends in the whole population. Individual clinical decisions rely on the specific patient's symptoms, history, and tests, rather than population-wide data. Legal prosecutions are actions within the justice system, not tools for public health planning.

3. For USDA-approved products, such as animal vaccines, to whom should you report the adverse event first?

A. FDA

B. NPIC

C. Manufacturer

D. EPA

Adverse event reporting for USDA-approved veterinary vaccines starts with the manufacturer. They're the first point of contact because they oversee post-market safety surveillance, collect the details of what happened, and then relay the information to the appropriate regulatory body with all the necessary data (product name, lot number, date of administration, species and condition of the animal, and contact information). The regulatory bodies you might hear about in humans or pesticides (FDA, NPIC, EPA) aren't the first recipients for animal vaccines. The manufacturer has the immediate responsibility to document and pass along adverse event information so proper investigations and tracking can occur.

4. Which entity has authority grounded in the US Constitution?

A. Counties

B. Municipalities

C. States

D. Federal government

In a federal system, the Constitution defines who holds sovereign authority within the country. The states are recognized as sovereign entities within the union, with powers reserved to them under the Constitution and the Tenth Amendment. Counties and municipalities, by contrast, are created by states through state law and charters, so their authority comes from the states rather than directly from the Constitution. The federal government's powers are also defined by the Constitution, but the question highlights which level is grounded in constitutional sovereignty, which is the state.

5. Which of the following is an example of a USDA-regulated veterinary biologic?

A. Vaccines

B. Antibiotics

C. Houseplants

D. Fertilizers

Vaccines are veterinary biologics—products made from living organisms used to prevent disease in animals. In the United States, these biologics are regulated by USDA APHIS through the Center for Veterinary Biologics, which licenses their production, ensures quality control, and requires proper labeling for animal use. This strong regulatory framework is what defines them as USDA-regulated veterinary biologics. Antibiotics, while also used in animals, are regulated as veterinary drugs by the FDA (Center for Veterinary Medicine), not as USDA-regulated biologics. Houseplants and fertilizers are not veterinary biologics at all; they are agricultural inputs or consumer products and fall outside the veterinary biologics regulatory path.

6. Which CDC program provides the public health infrastructure to monitor infectious diseases through wastewater across the country?

A. NWSS

B. VAERS

C. AERS

D. Registries

Public health surveillance through wastewater relies on a coordinated nationwide framework that standardizes sampling, laboratory methods, and data sharing so health departments can monitor infection levels across communities. The National Wastewater Surveillance System provides exactly this infrastructure across the country, coordinating wastewater data collection and analysis from participating jurisdictions and linking it with other disease surveillance to detect trends and outbreaks early. The other options focus on adverse events after vaccination or drug use, or general patient data collections, rather than a nationwide system for wastewater monitoring.

7. What is an example of active surveillance for avian influenza?

A. Avian Influenza Live Bird Marketing System

B. National Milk Testing Strategy

C. Syndromic surveillance

D. Environmental fecal sampling

Active surveillance is about proactively seeking out data and collecting samples to detect disease, rather than waiting for reports of illness to trigger investigation. The Avian Influenza Live Bird Marketing System fits this idea because it involves routine, proactive sampling and testing of poultry in live bird markets to detect avian influenza early and monitor its presence across markets, independent of whether any birds are reported sick. The other options don't match this proactive, market-based testing focus: a milk testing strategy targets dairy cattle and not avian species; syndromic surveillance relies on existing data streams for symptoms rather than direct sampling of birds; environmental fecal sampling can be part of surveillance but isn't in itself the structured, ongoing active program described by a live bird market system.

8. Which of the following is NOT one of the five pathogens tracked by NWSS?

A. Measles

B. Influenza

C. RSV

D. Hepatitis B

NWSS focuses on a small set of pathogens that are most useful for rapid outbreak detection and timely public health action. Measles, influenza, and RSV are all acute, often outbreak-prone respiratory infections that are closely watched for seasonal patterns, vaccine effectiveness, and immediate control measures. Hepatitis B, by contrast, is typically a chronic infection with slower, long-term transmission dynamics and is monitored through different surveillance channels rather than the NWSS rapid-outbreak signal set. That's why Hepatitis B isn't included among the five pathogens tracked by NWSS.

9. Which animals are put out and periodically tested for antibody conversion to arthropod-borne viruses such as St. Louis Encephalitis virus or Western Equine Encephalitis virus?

A. Sentinel dogs

B. Sentinel cows

C. Sentinel horses

D. Sentinel chickens

Sentinel surveillance relies on placing animals out in the environment to monitor virus activity by detecting seroconversion, signaling recent infection in the local mosquito-bird cycle. Sentinel chickens are the classic choice for this purpose because they're kept in secure pens in areas of interest and can be bled periodically to test for antibodies against arthropod-borne viruses like St. Louis Encephalitis virus and Western Equine Encephalitis virus. When a chicken shows a new antibody response, it indicates active transmission in that area, which helps public health respond with mosquito control and community alerts. Chickens are inexpensive, easy to maintain in groups, and their immune response provides clear, detectable evidence without the ethical and practical complications of testing animals that might suffer severe illness. While other animals can be monitored in some programs, sentinel chickens are the most practical and widely used option for this type of antibody-conversion surveillance.

10. Which agencies have passive surveillance systems?

A. FDA's Adverse Events Reporting System (AERS)

B. CDC's National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS)

C. Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS)

D. Both AERS and VAERS

The idea being tested is what makes a surveillance system passive: it depends on voluntary reporting of events rather than investigators actively seeking information. Both FDA's Adverse Events Reporting System and the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System operate this way. They collect reports about adverse events from drugs, biologics, or vaccines after they reach the public, and these reports come from clinicians, patients, manufacturers, and the public as they notice something occurring. No one is routinely and proactively contacted to confirm every case; instead, reports accumulate over time to highlight potential safety signals. National Wastewater Surveillance System, on the other hand, gathers data by actively sampling and testing wastewater across communities to monitor for pathogens. This is a form of environmental surveillance that relies on systematic, ongoing data collection rather than spontaneous reporting of illness. Therefore, the systems that are passive are AERS and VAERS.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

https://surveillancediseasereporting.examzify.com

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!