

**Course Title/Code:**                   **The Practice of Public Health (MMPH6159)**

**Department:**                           School of Public Health

**Objective:**

1. Adopt a generic public health approach to a broad range of common problems.
2. Integrate the diverse knowledge and skill requirements for a competent public health practitioner to problem solving.
3. Apply the knowledge and skills necessary for international professional examinations in public health medicine

**Content:**

- The Course comprises 10 practical sessions.
- The 10 practical sessions cover 3-5 simulated problem scenarios, with 2-3 sessions for each scenario, in the context of an emerging or evolving public health problem.
- In each scenario, students are given a series of information designed to provide a typical “signal” which might land on the desk of a public health physician and require certain actions. A collection of standard data-base and several internet links are provided as a source of general support. Student may also need to search for other public health sources and tools.
- The practical sessions simulate real-world public health practices, in which students learn to develop a systematic approach to define the problems, search for information to support analysis, draw inferences, propose and execute public health actions including immediate interventions, communication and plan for further steps. Students are expected to draw on knowledge and skills learnt from other Courses and put them into practice for tackling these simulated problems.
- All practical sessions are class tutorials run on a variation of the Problem Based Learning approach in which students lead the inquiry-based learning process. Students need to both put individual effort and collaborate with each other as a team in the problem-solving and management processes.
- It is important that students document each step in the use of database and internet or other sources, with each search and use of a source based on a

clear hypothesis, thereby employing a structured problem-solving and management approach.

- Each practical session will be concluded with group presentation by students and wrap-up by the tutors so as to clarify points of confusion, correct common mistakes and highlight the general principles and common considerations in assessing and addressing specific public health issues.
- Written tasks include documenting the structured records in class and writing up plan, proposal or other documents in relation to the public health problems in the scenarios.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Describe various concepts and wider determinants of public health
2. Identify types and sources of information needed for problem solving
3. Describe types of control measures for prevention of disease in the context of an outbreak or emerging epidemic of either communicable or non-communicable disease or a public health problem
4. Recognise the importance of defining and re-defining problems, filtering and prioritising information
5. Develop a logical, structured, documented approach to the assessment and solution of public health problems
6. Deliver practical plans, proposal of actions and other public health documents for addressing public health problems

**Prerequisite:**

None

**Duration:**

3 hours/week; 30 contact hours

**Assessment:**

100% continuous assessment

**Remarks:**

Prior approval from the School of Public Health must be sought.