

GHS2026 Conference Workshops

***Day One - Tuesday 9 2026, 1:45pm-3:45pm
Room 306***

Meet Your Virtual Mentor: Incorporating Artificial Intelligence into the Field Epidemiologist's Toolbox

Aim:

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude) are transforming how we access, process, and apply information—and field epidemiology is no exception. Field epidemiologists work in dynamic environments that demand rapid data collection, analysis, interpretation, clear communication, and efficient problem-solving, often with limited time and resources. This workshop aims to build practical, hands-on skills in using AI responsibly to enhance these core functions of applied epidemiology.

Participants will learn to identify appropriate use-cases for AI tools in fieldwork, understand the limitations and risks associated with their use, and practice integrating AI into their existing workflows. Emphasis will be placed on responsible and ethical use of AI, including issues of data privacy and accuracy. By the end of the session, participants will be equipped to apply AI tools thoughtfully and effectively in their own contexts.

Through this interactive workshop, participants will discover how AI can serve as a virtual mentor—supporting, but not replacing, the judgment and expertise of field epidemiologists in advancing health security.

Objectives:

- Recognize opportunities and limitations for using AI in field epidemiology
- Learn principles for responsible and ethical AI use in public health
- Gain hands-on experience using AI tools to streamline daily epidemiologic tasks

Target audience:

The workshop is intended for applied public health researchers, practitioners, and field epidemiologists. Participants will combine short demonstrations with interactive breakout activities, allowing participants to test AI tools using their own projects. Attendees will be encouraged to bring their work to explore how AI can enhance their efficiency and decision-making in real-time.