

GHS2026 Conference Workshops

***Day One - Tuesday 9 2026, 1:45pm-3:45pm
Room 407***

Bluetooth-powered Tabletop Exercise with Operation Outbreak

Aim & Objectives:

Join the Operation Outbreak team in an interactive workshop alongside a live, technology-driven outbreak simulation. A spin-out of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, the platform turns social proximity into data. Each participant with a phone can join a Bluetooth simulation, transmitting a virtual pathogen through real contact and movement, while making time-critical decisions during a tabletop exercise. Participants are encouraged to download the app in advance: <https://linktr.ee/OutbreakSimulations>. The app requires no login and collects no personal information. Within a single session, your group will produce your own epidemiologic dataset.

Participants will respond to a scenario built on early-outbreak uncertainty: ambiguous transmission dynamics, constrained resources, and open questions of origin and attribution. They will divide into Technical and Policy Cells and work through staged injects spanning diagnostics, hospital surge, vaccine and PPE allocation, risk communication, and recovery.

This 2-hour session pairs the live simulation with a structured debrief. Participants will examine how the pathogen moved through their own cohort, then map their decisions against the outcome. The data grounds the discussion: where transmission accelerated, which interventions held, and where coordination faltered under pressure.

Target audience:

Built for global health security leaders, the platform can support scenarios involving deliberate release, novel pathogens, and contested information environments. Participants will leave with applied decision-making practice, their group's transmission data, and a sharper read on systemic readiness.