Fold each printed sheet in half lengthwise. The left side of the document will list the term and the right side will list the definition. Tape or staple the open edges of your flashcards. Cut out your flashcards on the solid lines indicated and fold them on the dotted lines.

Module 2
Section C: Surveillance Methodologies

Term
Syndromic surveillance

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The collection and analysis of pre-diagnostic and nonclinical disease indicators using preexisting electronic data.

Module 2
Section C: Surveillance Methodologies

Term
Targeted surveillance

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Focuses on a narrow selection of infections and pathogens; also known as "priority-directed" surveillance.

Module 2
Section C: Surveillance Methodologies

Term
Total surveillance

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Measures and tracks all infections at a facility, across its entire population of residents and staff; also known as "comprehensive" or "whole house" surveillance.

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Attack rate

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The proportion of persons at risk who become infected over an entire period of exposure or a measure of the risk or probability of becoming a case.

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Bias

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A systematic error in study design, subject recruitment, data collection, or analysis that results in a mistaken estimate of the true population parameter. (NIH)

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Confounder

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A variable that is an independent cause or predictor of the exposure and the outcome and is not on the path between the exposure and the outcome; also called a confounding variable.

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Correlation

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Calculation of the direction and magnitude of a relationship between two variables.

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Incidence proportion

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A measure of the number of new cases or events within the population at risk during the identified time period.

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Incidence rate

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Represents the proportion of new cases over a particular period of time.

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Interval scale

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A measurement in descriptive statistics in which the exact distance between any two ordinal scale observations is known and assumed to be equal but attributes measured have no real, rational zero point.

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Mortality rate

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A measure of the frequency of death in a defined population during a specified time (usually a year).

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Nominal scale

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The crudest level of measurement in descriptive statistics. Creates categorical data in which no order is implied by the classifications. Values cannot be measured mathematically (e.g., cannot be averaged), but frequency or percentage can be applied.

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Ordinal scale

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A measurement in descriptive statistics that applies ranking to categorical data on a relative scale so that each category is distinct and stands in some definite relationship to each of the other categories but does not indicate how much greater each level is than another.

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Period prevalence

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Prevalence during a span of time (e.g., over the course of a given month).

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Point prevalence

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Prevalence at a specific point in time (e.g., on a given day).

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Proportion

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A specific kind of ratio that compares a part to the whole.

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Rate

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A specific kind of ratio that includes a unit of time, and provides information about how fast events are occurring.

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Ratio

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The comparison of any two quantitative values.

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Ratio scale

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The highest level of measurement in descriptive statistics; creates interval scale observations that have an absolute, real zero point, which allows for higher levels of statistical analysis.

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Regression

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A way to explain the relationship between a dependent variable (y) and one or more explanatory (or independent) variables (x).

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Standardization

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Used when one needs to compare the event rates of different groups, for example, if an IP wants to compare catheter-associated urinary tract infection rates for two facilities.

Module 2
Section F: Descriptive Statistics

Term
Stratification

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The process by which the population in a dataset is separated into distinct categories.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
2 by 2 table

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A table with two outcome columns (e.g., disease and no disease) and two exposure rows (e.g., exposed and not exposed).

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Deviation

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The difference between an individual value in a data set and the mean value.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Dispersion

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The distribution of data around the mean.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Level of significance

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The probability value arbitrarily chosen by the researcher as the desired level of probability at which one may feel secure in rejecting the null hypothesis; typically set at 0.05 or 0.01.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Mean

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The sum of all values divided by the total number of values.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Measures of central tendency

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Describe how observations cluster around a middle value and locate only the center of a distribution measure; include mean, median, and mode.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Median

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The midpoint of a set of observations

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Mode

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The observation that occurs most frequently in a data set.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Negative predictive value (NPV)

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A measure of the proportion of persons without a disease who test negative.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Population

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The set of all observations of interest to the investigator (the universe).

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Positive predictive value (PPV)

A measure of the proportion of persons with a positive test who have a disease.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Power

The ability of a test to detect a specified difference.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Range

The difference between the smallest and largest values in a data set.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Reliability

The ability of the indicator to accurately and consistently identify the events it was designed to identify across multiple healthcare settings. (The Joint Commission)

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Sample

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A group of observations selected from a population and chosen to represent the population as a whole.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Sensitivity

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A measure of the probability that a test correctly identifies as positive persons who have a disease.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Specificity

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A measure of the probability that a test correctly identifies persons without a disease as negative.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Standard deviation

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A measure that reflects the distribution of values around the mean; it is the average of all deviations in a data set and indicates how spread out the data are around the mean.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Type I error

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Occurs when the null hypothesis is rejected when it is actually true or when significance is attributed when there actually is none.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Type II error

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Occurs when the null hypothesis is accepted when it is actually false or when significance is not attributed when it actually exists.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
Variance

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The deviation around the mean of a distribution.

Module 2
Section G: Inferential Statistics

Term
p value

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The probability of observing a sample in which the test statistic is greater than or equal to the test statistic for the sample that was actually observed.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Agent

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A component of the epidemiological triangle; may be a bacteria, virus, fungus, protozoan, helminth, or prion.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Airborne spread

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

An efficient mode of transmission that may involve varying distances between the source and the host.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Carrier

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A person who shows no recognizable signs or symptoms of a disease but is capable of spreading the disease to others.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Causative agent

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A biological, physical, or chemical entity capable of causing disease.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Chronic carriers

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Persons who may continue to have organisms present for very long periods of time.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Cluster

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A group of persons with a given disease occurring in the same space and time but not epidemiologically linked. If an epidemiological link is made, may become an outbreak.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Community-acquired infection

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

An infection that is present on admission to a healthcare facility and has no association with a recent hospitalization.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Convalescent carriers

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Those who have recovered from a disease but still have organisms present that can be transmitted.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Direct contact

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A mode of transmission that features person-to-person spread with actual physical contact occurring between a source and a susceptible host.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Droplet transmission

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A mode of transmission that occurs when the infectious agent spends only a brief period passing through the air and can be inhaled at that time.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Endemic

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The usual incidence of a given disease within a geographical area during a specified time period.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Environment

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A component of the epidemiological triangle; consists of all external factors associated with the host.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Epidemic

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

An excess over the expected incidence of disease within a given geographical area during a specified time period.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Epidemiology

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The study of the distribution and determinants of disease and other conditions in human populations.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
External vector-borne transmission

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The mechanical transfer of microorganisms by a vector, such as a fly on food.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Fomite

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

An inanimate object on which organisms may exist for some period of time, for example, a contaminated piece of medical equipment.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Healthcare-associated infection (HAI)

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

An infection that is not present at the time of admission to a healthcare facility but is temporally associated with admission to or a procedure performed in the facility; may also be related to a recent hospitalization.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Herd immunity

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The resistance of a group to invasion and spread of an infectious agent, based on the immunity of a high proportion of individual members of the group.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Host

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A component of the epidemiological triangle; refers to a human or other animal.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Incidence

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The number of new cases of a given disease in a given time period.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Indirect contact

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A mode of transmission that occurs when a patient comes in contact with a contaminated intermediate object or fomite.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Infection—apparent, clinical, or symptomatic

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

An infection that results in clinical signs and symptoms of a recognizable disease process.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Infection—unapparent, asymptomatic, or subclinical

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

An infection that runs a course similar to that of clinical disease but below the threshold of discernible clinical symptoms.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Intermittent carriers

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Persons who periodically shed organisms.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Internal vector-borne transmission

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Involves the transfer of infectious material directly from the vector into the new host, such as occurs with mosquitoes and malaria.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Mode of transmission

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The method by which an organism reaches a susceptible host.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Outbreak

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Synonymous with epidemic but often preferred when dealing with the public; in local settings, a group of people with the same disease who are epidemiologically linked.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Pandemic

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

An epidemic spread over a wide geographical area, across countries or continents.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Portal of entry

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

In the chain of infection, the means by which an infectious agent enters a susceptible host.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Portal of exit

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

In the chain of infection, the path by which an infectious agent leaves the reservoir.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Prevalence

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The number of existent cases of a given disease at a given time.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Reservoir

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A place in which an infectious agent can survive but may or may not multiply, for example, Pseudomonas in nebulizers and hepatitis B on the surface of a hemodialysis machine.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Risk

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The probability or likelihood of an event occurring.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Risk factor

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A characteristic, behavior, or experience that increases the probability of developing a negative health status (e.g., disease, infection).

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Sustained carriers

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Persons who may continue to have organisms present for very long periods of time.

Module 2
Section A: Epidemiology

Term
Vector

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

In biology, a biting insect, tick, or other organism responsible for transmitting a disease, pathogen, or parasite between persons, animals, or plants.

Module 2 *Section A: Epidemiology* **Term** Zoonosis APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	A disease transmitted from animals to humans (e.g., cat scratch fever, psittacosis).
Module 2 *Section B: Surveillance Design* **Term** Action plans APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	Detail the steps necessary for reaching the goals and addressing the issues identified during surveillance.
Module 2 *Section B: Surveillance Design* **Term** Active surveillance APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	Surveillance that involves trained individuals (such as IPs) actively looking for healthcare-associated infections using standardized definitions and protocols.
Module 2 *Section B: Surveillance Design* **Term** Outcome measure APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	A measure that indicates the result of the performance (or nonperformance) of functions or processes.

Module 2
Section B: Surveillance Design

Term
Passive surveillance

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Surveillance that relies on others (e.g., physicians, nurses, or the microbiology laboratory) who are not trained on surveillance methods or primarily responsible for surveillance activities to report healthcare-associated infections.

Module 2
Section B: Surveillance Design

Term
Process measure

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A measure that focuses on a process or the steps in a process that lead to a specific outcome.

Module 2
Section B: Surveillance Design

Term
Surveillance

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A system for routine, ongoing, and systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of surveillance data to identify infections (i.e., HAI and community-acquired), infection risks, communicable disease outbreaks, and to maintain or improve resident health status.

Module 2
Section B: Surveillance Design

Term
Surveillance plan

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The set of protocols and guidelines that will direct surveillance activities

Module 2 *Section D: Data Collection and Management* **Term** Concurrent data collection APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	Collecting and referencing of data in real time, with a focus on new information as it comes in.
Module 2 *Section D: Data Collection and Management* **Term** Demographic data APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	Data that is socio-economic in nature (e.g., age, sex, race).
Module 2 *Section D: Data Collection and Management* **Term** Event data APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	Data related to high-volume, high-risk events within a faciility (e.g., HAIs, immunization rates).
Module 2 *Section D: Data Collection and Management* **Term** Process data APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	Data related to facility protocols and practices (e.g., standard precautions, environmental cleaning).

Module 2 *Section D: Data Collection and Management* **Term** Retrospective data collection APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	Collating of data that has already been collected, with a focus on examining what has already happened.
Module 2 *Section D: Data Collection and Management* **Term** Surveillance criteria APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	Specific conditions that qualify as infections for the purpose of surveillance data collection; they are also used in the calculation and reporting of infection rates.
Module 2 *Section D: Data Collection and Management* **Term** Time data APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	Data bound by a unit of time (e.g., month, year).
Module 2 *Section D: Data Collection and Management* **Term** Validity APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	The extent to which a measure accurately reflects the concept or construct that it is intended to measure. (The Joint Commission)

Module 2
Section E: Statistics

Term
Association

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The relationship between a risk factor and an outcome, such as a disease.

Module 2
Section E: Statistics

Term
Categorical data

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Data split into mutually exclusive groups.

Module 2
Section E: Statistics

Term
Continuous data

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Data that can be measured on a continuum or scale.

Module 2
Section E: Statistics

Term
Deviation

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The difference between an individual value in a data set and the mean value.

Module 2
Section E: Statistics

Term
Discrete data

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Data representing whole numbers.

Module 2
Section E: Statistics

Term
Dispersion

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The distribution of data around the mean.

Module 2
Section E: Statistics

Term
Mean

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The sum of all values divided by the total number of values.

Module 2
Section E: Statistics

Term
Measures of central tendency

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Describe how observations cluster around a middle value and locate only the center of a distribution measure; include mean, median, and mode.

Module 2 *Section E: Statistics* **Term** Median APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	The midpoint of a set of observations
Module 2 *Section E: Statistics* **Term** Mode APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	The observation that occurs most frequently in a data set.
Module 2 *Section E: Statistics* **Term** Odds ratio (OR) APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	The probability of having a particular risk factor if a condition or disease is present divided by the probability of having the risk factor if the disease or condition is not present.
Module 2 *Section E: Statistics* **Term** Qualitative data APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	Data representing qualities or characteristics.

Module 2
Section E: Statistics

Term
Quantitative data

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Data representing counts or values on a numeric scale.

Module 2
Section E: Statistics

Term
Range

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The difference between the smallest and largest values in a data set.

Module 2
Section E: Statistics

Term
Relative risk (RR)

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The probability of developing a disease if the risk factor is present divided by the probability of developing the disease if the risk factor is not present.

Module 2
Section E: Statistics

Term
Standard deviation

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A measure that reflects the distribution of values around the mean; it is the average of all deviations in a data set and indicates how spread out the data are around the mean.

Module 2 *Section E: Statistics* **Term** Variance APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	The deviation around the mean of a distribution.
Module 2 *Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity Results* **Term** Area map APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	Map that uses different shades of chosen colors to indicate different rates of infection (or other disease/health condition), with the darker shades indicating higher rates or an increasing disease burden.
Module 2 *Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity Results* **Term** Bar graph APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	Presents data as side-by-side bars for an easy comparison of magnitudes, frequency distributions, and time-series data.
Module 2 *Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity Results* **Term** Chart APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025	A form of visual data presentation used when the magnitudes of different events is important or when one wants to compare parts of the bigger picture.

Module 2
Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity Results

Term
Histogram

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A graphic of frequency distribution that looks much like a bar graph but in which each bar represents a different time interval.

Module 2
Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity Results

Term
Line chart

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Chart used to display the same data over time, for example, the rate of ICU CLABSIs over a year; each time point is equidistant from the previous and next time points, with time running along the x axis.

Module 2
Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity Results

Term
Pie chart

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Shows the proportion that a group represents within the whole population.

Module 2
Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity Results

Term
Spot map

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A tool for illustrating the geographic distribution of cases; uses dots or other symbols to show where each case-patient lives or was exposed.

Module 2
Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity Results

Term
Statistical process control (SPC)

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A set of methods for improving systems, processes, and outcomes; the primary goal is to recognize and understand common and special cause variations that affect a process.

Module 2
Section H: Presenting Surveillance Activity Results

Term
Table

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A data set presented in rows and columns.

Module 2
Section I: Emergency Preparedness

Term
All-hazards approach

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

An integrated approach to emergency preparedness planning that focuses on capacities and capabilities that are critical to preparedness for a full spectrum of emergencies or disasters; the approach is specific to the location of the provider or supplier and considers the particular types of hazards most likely to occur in their areas. (Federal Register)

Module 2
Section I: Emergency Preparedness

Term
Bioterrorism attack

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

The deliberate release of viruses, bacteria, or other germs (agents) used to cause illness or death in people, animals, or plants. (CDC)

Module 2
Section I: Emergency Preparedness

Term
Incident Command System (ICS)

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A standardized management tool for meeting the demands of small or large emergency or nonemergency situations. (FEMA)

Module 2
Section J: Outbreak Investigations

Term
Case definition

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A set of uniformly applied criteria for determining whether a person should be identified as having a particular disease, injury, or other health condition; it usually specifies clinical, laboratory, and other diagnostic criteria.

Module 2
Section J: Outbreak Investigations

Term
Control measures

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

Protocols designed to interrupt the transmission of and reduce or eliminate the occurrence of communicable diseases and infections.

Module 2
Section J: Outbreak Investigations

Term
Epidemic curve

APIC a-IPC Learning System © 2025

A graph in which the cases of a disease that occur during an epidemic (outbreak) are plotted according to the time of onset of illness.

Module 2

Section J: Outbreak Investigations

Term

Line list

A document that contains information related to patient symptoms (in case there is the possibility that it is a pseudo-outbreak), medications, procedures, consults, patient locations, contact with HCP, and host of other factors that might predispose the patients to the infection under investigation.