

# Certified in Disease Intervention (CDI) Program

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



### GENERAL INFORMATION

The [Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health \(ASPPH\)](#) has been funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC CK20-2003) to develop and implement the Certification in Disease Intervention (CDI) program and the infrastructure in which it can succeed. ASPPH is working with the [National Board of Public Health Examiners \(NBPHE\)](#) to develop the certification exam.

### What does a disease intervention professional do?

Disease intervention professionals are public health professionals who help reduce the spread of infectious diseases in communities. They conduct person-centered interviews, provide partner services, collect surveillance data, conduct field investigations, support outbreak response, and connect individuals to care and prevention services.

### Why is there a national certification for disease intervention professionals?

The **Certified in Disease Intervention (CDI)** credential establishes a national benchmark for knowledge and skills in disease intervention practice. It formally recognizes the expertise of professionals working on the front lines of infectious disease prevention and control and supports workforce development across jurisdictions.

Learn more about the CDI Program on the [CDI Program Overview page](#).

### When will the CDI application portal open?

The CDI Exam Application and Portal will open on **February 17, 2026**. Eligible candidates can submit applications and manage their exam registration by accessing the [CDI Application Portal](#).

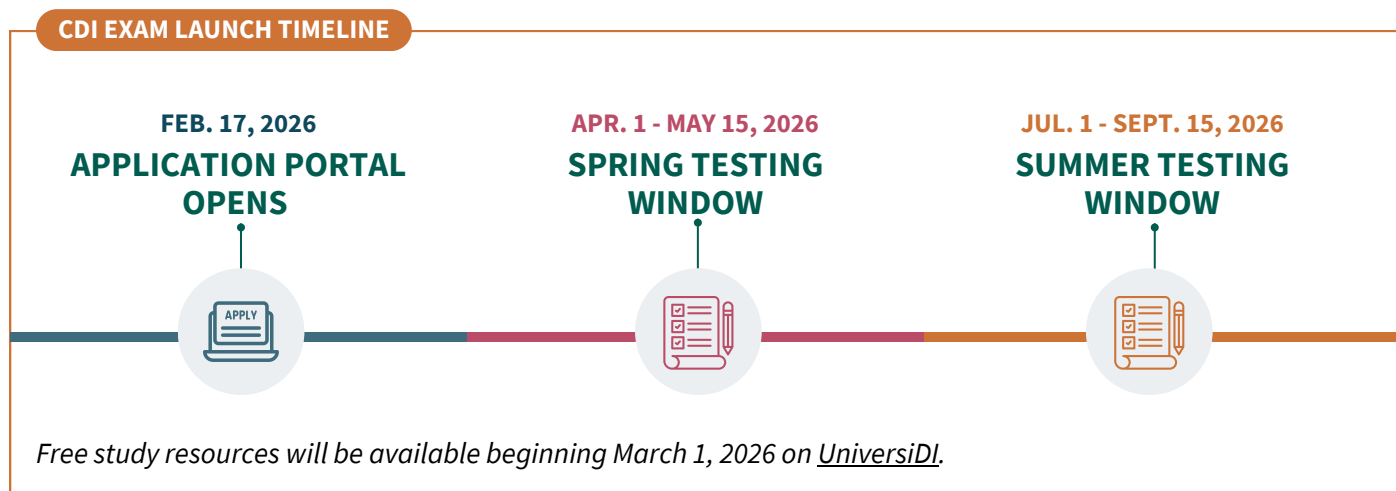


## When can I take the CDI exam?

The CDI exam will be offered during designated testing windows:

- **Spring 2026 Testing Window:** April 1 – May 15, 2026
- **Summer 2026 Testing Window:** July 1 – September 15, 2026

The timeline below outlines key dates for the 2026 Certified in Disease Intervention (CDI) exam cycle.



## What is the format of the CDI exam?

The CDI exam is a computer-based, three-hour exam consisting of **120 multiple-choice questions**. The exam does not include essays or live/observed components. Questions assess applied knowledge and real-world decision-making relevant to disease intervention practice.

## What is the format of the CDI exam?

The CDI exam assesses proficiency across six domains:

- 1 Planning & Case Analysis
- 2 Interviewing & Case Management
- 3 Field Services & Outreach
- 4 Surveillance & Data Collection
- 5 Collaboration
- 6 Outbreak Response & Emergency Preparedness

The full domain breakdown is available in the **[CDI Content Outline](#)**.

## Does the exam focus on specific diseases?

No. The CDI exam does not test clinical knowledge of specific diseases. Instead, it evaluates the transferable skills required to conduct disease intervention activities across disease areas.

## Can I retake the exam if I do not pass?

Yes. Candidates who do not pass may retake the exam once within a 12-month period.

## In what languages is the exam offered?

The CDI exam is offered in English and Spanish.

### ELIGIBILITY

## Who is eligible to sit for the CDI exam?

Eligibility requirements are outlined on the [CDI Eligibility Requirements page](#). Applicants should review all criteria before submitting an application.

### ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT (EXAM PILOT PHASE)

## Are there additional eligibility requirements during the exam pilot phase?

Yes. The CDI exam is currently being implemented as part of a federally funded pilot project supported by CDC through September 29, 2026.

During the pilot phase, eligibility is limited to:

- U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents
- Individuals currently residing in the United States or U.S. territories, or on a U.S. military installation.

These requirements apply only during the exam pilot period. Eligibility criteria may be revised after September 30, 2026. Disease intervention professionals who do not currently meet this requirement are encouraged to check back for updates following the conclusion of the pilot phase.



## Why is at least one year of disease intervention experience required?

The CDI exam assesses applied proficiency in core disease intervention skills. One year of experience helps ensure candidates have developed competencies across practice areas.

## How is work experience calculated?

Work experience may include full-time or part-time employment and may be calculated proportionally. Experience can include paid positions or qualifying volunteer service, such as AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, or internships, provided it meets eligibility criteria described on the [CDI Eligibility Requirements page](#).

### EXAM FEES AND FEE WAIVER (PILOT PHASE)

## How much does the CDI exam cost?

During the CDI pilot phase (through September 29, 2026), exam fees are waived for eligible candidates.

## What does the fee waiver cover?

During the pilot phase, the fee waiver covers:

- The first CDI exam attempt
- One retake exam, if needed

There is no cost to eligible candidates for these exam attempts during the pilot period.

## Are there any conditions related to rescheduling?

Candidates may reschedule their exam appointment at no cost if changes are made at least two days prior to the scheduled exam date. Candidates who reschedule fewer than two days before their appointment or who do not appear for their scheduled exam may forfeit access to the pilot fee waiver for future attempts.

Additional details are available on the [CDI Exam Fees page](#).

### EXAM PREPARATION

## What study resources are available?

**UniversiDI**, developed by ASPPH, features exam prep resources, **including the CDI Planner**, the **UniversiDI Library**, the **CDI Study Guide** and more to help candidates prepare for the CDI exam.



## Do I have to pay for study materials?

No. Official CDI study resources are available at no cost on the [UniversiDI website](#).

## How long should I study for the CDI exam?

Preparation time varies based on experience. Many candidates study between 1–6 months, dedicating several hours per week. Reviewing the content outline and completing practice exams can help identify areas for focused study.

## RECERTIFICATION

### Why is recertification required?

Recertification ensures that credential holders remain current with evolving public health practices and continue to meet national standards.

### How often do I need to recertify?

The CDI credential must be renewed every three years. Review full requirements on the [CDI Recertification Requirements](#) page.

### How many credits are required?

Certificants must earn 30 recertification credits during each three-year cycle. See the [CDI Recertification Activities Credit Guide](#) for details.

### What activities count toward recertification?

Eligible activities include work experience, conferences, webinars, courses, publications, presentations, and volunteer services related to public health and disease intervention.

### Is there a fee for recertification?

Yes. The recertification fee is \$95, due at the time of application submission.

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