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# Preface

This book provides an introduction to the law of communicable disease control in North Carolina. It is divided into two parts. Part 1 addresses the core topics in the legal structure for communicable disease control: detecting communicable disease in the population through surveillance and disease reporting laws, investigating communicable disease cases and outbreaks, controlling communicable disease, enforcing communicable disease laws using public health legal remedies, and the interaction of confidentiality laws with public health agencies' communicable disease control activities. Part 2 takes a more in-depth look at three special topics. The first two— isolation and quarantine authorities and bloodborne pathogen exposures— represent specialized communicable disease control measures that deserve deeper attention than they receive in the general chapter on controlling communicable disease. The third topic, public health and bioterrorism, describes laws that would operate in tandem with communicable disease laws in the event of bioterrorism involving a communicable disease agent.

As the title indicates, the book is intended to be an overview of key topics. It does not attempt to cover every subtopic or answer every question that may arise. The book is supplemented by materials on my North Carolina public health law website, [ncphlaw.unc.edu](http://ncphlaw.unc.edu). Follow the link to “Legal Information by Topic” and select the topic “Communicable Disease Control” for links to blog posts, bulletins, and frequently asked questions about some of the topics in this book.

This work has benefitted tremendously from many years of close work with North Carolina state and local public health officials and attorneys. The constant contact between the SOG and the public officials we serve is a pleasure and an honor, and it makes my work better. I am especially grateful to Chris Hoke and John Barkley, who helped me understand the history and practical context of the issues underlying the statutory framework for

public health law, and to my SOG colleague Aimee Wall, who has been my sounding board on more occasions than I can count. I am fortunate to have such talented individuals as colleagues and friends.

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