

**Descriptive Text:** Green chalkboard background with chalk drawings of science and math activities. Blue CDC logo in bottom right corner.

CDC Epidemiologist Wade Ivy, PhD, shares his story.

**Text on Screen:** CDC NERD Academy Public Health Careers: Epidemiologist

**Wade:** Well, I am an epidemiologist, and that's just a very big word that means that I study how diseases affect populations. I study how diseases affect specific people in certain populations and also figure out ways to stop the transmission of the disease in the population. So this is very important because as we know, especially with the recent coronavirus outbreak, that diseases really can be really harmful to people.

So the skills I use on a daily basis as an epidemiologist are many. It's a lot of different skills. First and foremost. We are required to communicate effectively to all the people we work with. That communication sometimes is verbal by in speaking. Also, as communication is through written communication, writing publications or articles about diseases. Writing lots of emails.

Writing documents that describe how we go about preventing diseases from being from spreading in the population. I did a undergrad degree or a bachelor degree with a college in biology, and then after biology I went to graduate school, which is just more school and focused in on public health. And then after that, I went back to graduate school and got a Ph.D. in epidemiology specifically so that I could learn really how to study diseases in population and how to stop it.

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To learn more about public health careers, visit: [www.cdc.gov/stem/careers](http://www.cdc.gov/stem/careers)