Surveillance [sər-välˈəns]

From the French surveiller, “to watch over,” public health surveil-

 lance has its roots in 14th-century Europe. In an early form of
 surveillance, in approximately 1348, the Venetian Republic appointed
guardians of public health to detect and exclude ships that carried
 plague-infected passengers. In 1662, English demographer John Graunt
analyzed the mortality rolls in London and described a system to warn
of the onset and spread of plague. Until the 1950s, “surveillance”
referred to monitoring a person exposed to a disease; the current
concept of surveillance as monitoring disease occurrence in populations
was promoted by Alexander Langmuir of the Communicable Diseases
Center (now the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

Sources
1. Declich S, Carter AO. Public health surveillance: historical

Address for correspondence: Ronnie Henry, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Rd NE, Mailstop E03, Atlanta,
GA 30329-4027, USA; email: boq3@cdc.gov

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