

Infectious Diseases

Assignment Description

The Fellow would be assigned to the Bureau of Immunization within the NYC DOHMH. The Bureau is composed of units focused on: Clinical Services/Emergency Management, Surveillance, Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention, Program Support, Administration, Immunization Registry, Provider Support, Vaccine Management, Provider Education and Adult Immunization. The Bureau is responsible for assuring that all New Yorkers are age appropriately vaccinated. The Bureau is responsible for surveillance and control of vaccine preventable diseases in NYC. The Bureau regularly responds to outbreaks of measles and mumps.

In 2010 we experienced one of the largest outbreaks of mumps in the U.S. since 2006. In 2013 we experienced the largest outbreak of measles in the U.S. since 1996. Housed within the Bureau is the Citywide Immunization Registry, a mature population based registry which maintains the immunization records of all New Yorkers under 19 years of age. In addition, the Bureau has adult immunization, clinical services and assessment units. Upon arrival, the Fellow would meet with each Unit Chief to explore possible projects and activities of interest.

Day-to-Day Activities

The Fellow will spend the majority of his/her time working on agreed upon projects. In addition, the Fellow will participate in vaccine-preventable disease surveillance unit activities such as weekly case classification, unit meetings, intake and investigation of reportable disease cases and intermittent analyses of surveillance data. The Fellow will be incorporated into outbreak response and control activities. The Fellow will attend meetings within the Bureau (e.g. NYC Childhood and Adult immunization Coalition meetings) and Agency (e.g. Epidemiology Grand Rounds) to gain exposure to all aspects of the Bureau's work.

Potential Projects

Potential projects would include the following:

A surveillance system evaluation of the Bureau of Immunization's invasive pneumococcal disease surveillance system. Such an evaluation is particularly important given the recent introduction of a new 13-valent pneumococcal vaccine and the Bureau's participation in a CDC sponsored evaluation of the vaccine efficacy.

An analytic project looking at the epidemiology and burden of varicella disease over time in NYC using data from NY hospital discharge datasets, NYC DOHMH vital statistics data and the U.S. Census Bureau. The Fellow would assist the Surveillance Unit in determining the feasibility of case-based varicella surveillance and potential implementation.

Additional analytic projects could be developed specific to outbreaks that may arise during the fellowship. Examples of recent projects conducted by CSTE Fellows include:

- Mumps vaccine effectiveness and risk factors for disease in households during an outbreak in NYC
- Effectiveness of measles post-exposure prophylaxis during an outbreak in NYC
- Provider awareness and altered practices survey following a 2011-2012 pertussis outbreak in NYC

Preparedness Role

BOI regularly contributes to the development of mass vaccination and prophylaxis plans for the Agency. The fellow will have the opportunity to participate in Agency Emergency Preparedness activities. As an example, the Agency has had regular opportunities for mass vaccination activities which trainees have participated in; the fellow would be expected to participate in such activities. Previous CSTE Fellows have attended H1N1, mumps and hepatitis A mass planning meetings and participated in mass vaccination events.

Assignment Location:	New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Long Island City, New York
Primary Mentor:	Jennifer Rosen, MD Director of Epidemiology and Surveillance, Bureau of Immunization
Secondary Mentor:	Jane Zucker, MD, MSc Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Immunization