

Infectious Disease

Description:

The fellow will be assigned to the Division of Infectious Diseases, which includes Communicable Disease, Tuberculosis, Immunization, and STD/HIV Sections. Each of these Sections is responsible for state-wide disease surveillance, prevention, and control programs, conducted in collaboration with 95 local health departments. All Sections except HIV/AIDS are headquartered in Springfield (the state capital), located 200 miles from Chicago.

Day-To-Day Activities:

Although operations for the majority of the Division of Infectious Diseases are headquartered in Springfield, the majority of the state's population lives in and around Chicago, providing numerous opportunities for participation in outbreak investigations, epidemiologic studies, and conferences. In addition, the major public health laboratory is located in Chicago, which allows for collaborative interactions with scientists who have expertise in molecular genetics, virology, bacteriology, and parasitology.

Potential Projects:

The fellow will be able to choose from numerous potential projects including:

- 1) Responsibility for oversight of surveillance data for a reportable condition (eg malaria, legionella)
- 2) Analysis of trends in infectious disease (eg HIV) hospitalizations (hospital discharge dataset, which includes information for 1,000,000 discharges/year from Illinois hospitals)
- 3) Case control study of the impact of breast-feeding on infant bacteremia rates
- 4) Surveillance system evaluation: eg case-based surveillance for varicella (implemented in 2007); chlamydia surveillance; ILI surveillance
- 5) Outbreak investigations--we have many, including typical (Salmonella, Shigella, Legionella) and unusual (Monkeypox, Vaccinia, Plague) pathogens.

Emergency Prep Role:

The fellow will have numerous opportunities to participate in response planning and training, as well as exercises and response to events (eg floods, earthquakes). The fellow can also participate in preparedness meetings within IDPH, and state and national partners. Depending on the fellow's interest, participation in such meetings could be more or less frequent (3x/month-1x/quarter).

Assignment Location: Chicago, IL

Primary Mentor: Craig Conover, MD, MPH

State Epidemiologist
Illinois Department of Health

Secondary Mentor: Connie Austin, DVM, PhD, MPH
State Public Health Veterinarian
Illinois Department of Health