

A. Description:

Information about the program area

The CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine, in collaboration with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), is offering an opportunity for an epidemiologist to work at the New York City Quarantine Station at JFK International Airport and the DOHMH on planning for the CDC response to Pandemic Influenza and promotion of annual influenza and pneumococcal vaccination.

DGMQ is the CDC division charged with preventing the introduction and spread of communicable disease by international or interstate travel, and is responsible for screening and evaluating travelers who may be infected with the agents of specific federally-quarantinable diseases, including newly emergent strains of epidemic influenza. In conjunction with other components of CDC it is responsible for developing key components of the HHS response plan to an outbreak of pandemic influenza. This plan includes surveillance of foreign and domestic sites, development of systems for the recognition of infected travelers, and the early use of a variety of non-pharmaceutical and medical public health interventions in order to slow the introduction of influenza with pandemic potential into the United States.

Potential Projects:

- The Fellow would work closely with the NY Quarantine Station staff, and other members of the Division, in developing appropriate epidemiologic systems for the monitoring of influenza activity in selected populations relevant to the early recognition of a pandemic outbreak, and to its effective control.
- In addition, planning would involve the design and implementation of systems for the evaluation of response activities and their potential modification.
- To becoming familiar with local public health efforts, the Fellow would also have the opportunity to participate in the daily activities of the NYC DOHMH Bureau of Immunization. The Bureau's mission is to prevent the occurrence and transmission of vaccine preventable diseases through immunization of all age groups. The Bureau has responsibility for the Citywide Immunization Registry, Promotion of Childhood and Adolescent Immunization, Vaccines for Children Program, Compliance with School Immunization Requirements, Provider and Public Health Education and Training, Surveillance, Prevention of Perinatal Hepatitis B, Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness, Clinical Services and Adult Immunization. The experience in the DOHMH would provide a strong experience in policy and implementation of public health including exposures to challenges at the community and provider level and hands on experience in case investigations and outbreak control response.
- Other educational opportunities at the Department include regular Epidemiology Grand Rounds, research seminars, and training programs and CDC sponsored satellite broadcasts.

DGMQ staff at JFK work with US Customs and Border Protection and Department of Agriculture personnel to enforce current embargoes of products which may be contaminated with avian influenza virus. In addition, the station works with airlines,

aircrews, and other airport personnel to detect and evaluate travelers with diseases of public health significance. It also is responsible for the monitoring of the health of immigrants and refugees arriving in New York City, and the notification of state health departments of information on those arriving with such conditions as tuberculosis.

Anticipated day to day activities:

For the first nine to twelve months, the fellow would be assigned to the NYC DOHMH and become familiar with the daily operations of the Bureau of Immunization. The fellow would be integrated into the work of three Units in the Bureau: Surveillance, participating in surveillance and outbreak investigations; Adult Immunization, participating in activities to promote influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations, and Pandemic Influenza planning. This would provide the Fellow with excellent experience in working in a major local health department while at the same time affording the Fellow an opportunity to learn about the resources available at the DOHMH for developing his or her research project.

During this period, the Fellow would be integrated into the DOHMH's emergency response structure and participate in planning or emergency response activities as needed.

The Fellow would also have the opportunity to participate in the planning work groups and other activities in DGMQ which would allow him or her to become familiar with the responsibilities and the staff of the Division. Over the first three months, the Fellow would meet on a regular basis with the Medical Officer at the JFK Quarantine Station and develop a plan which would then be implemented over the next 21 months. Following his initial assignment to DOHMH, the Fellow would be principally posted at the Quarantine Station for six to nine months, with opportunities to continue to participate in selected activities at the NYC DOHMH. The final 3-6 months of the Fellowship would be devoted to analysis and preparation of a manuscript based upon the epidemiologic project the Fellow had undertaken.

Assignment Location: New York, NY

Primary Mentor: Paul J Edelson, MD
Medical Officer, CDC NY Quarantine Station

Advanced Degree: State University of New York (Downstate), 1969

Secondary Mentor: Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Immunization. NYC DOHMH

Advanced Degree: MD: Mt Sinai School of Medicine, 1984
MSc: Masters of Epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health,
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