

Infectious Disease- Quarantine

Assignment Description

This fellowship position is located in San Diego, California and is a partnership of Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch, County of San Diego, Division of Public Health Services, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) San Diego Quarantine Station, part of the CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine's (DGMQ) U.S. – Mexico Unit.

Day-to- Day Activities

The fellow will be involved with meeting with supervisors and project collaborators; writing project protocols; data analysis; field or telephone interviews during investigations; attending epidemiology and quarantine program meetings; making presentations on project data; writing reports and manuscripts; participating in tabletop exercises; traveling to regional or national meetings; interacting with staff from other public health programs such as immunizations, and other agencies involved in public health, Environmental Health, Customs and Border Protection, taking phone calls from the public, interacting with the media after appropriate training, etc.

Potential Projects

Possible projects for a fellow are wide ranging within the infectious disease arena. These projects might include, but are not limited to:

1. Participation in acute disease outbreak investigations by San Diego County and DGMQ (eg cruise ship outbreaks)
2. Participate in facility (restaurant and market) associated outbreak investigations including environmental health inspections
3. Analyze San Diego County food-borne illness data
4. Analysis of border infectious disease surveillance project data on varicella or food-borne diseases
5. Evaluate the timeliness of disease reporting by laboratories and hospitals in San Diego County
6. Development and evaluation of border active surveillance systems for foodborne diseases, bioterrorism syndromes, severe acute respiratory infections, or antibiotic resistant organisms
7. Development of improved systems to capture infectious disease surveillance data from migrant health clinics
8. Evaluation of binational disease reporting based on new binational guidelines.
9. Evaluate completion of therapy rates for binational TB cases
10. Evaluate timeliness and utility of immigrant medical referrals for TB
11. Analysis of national or state health databases to assess the burden of priority health issues for migrants in the U.S
12. Collaborate with Mexico's Secretariat of Health in the evaluation of health education materials for migrants
13. Rapid field health surveys of migrant and refugee communities
14. Evaluate the impact of quantiferon testing on rates of latent TB infection among refugees, and HIV patients
15. Analysis of TB genotyping data to describe trends and identify opportunities to interrupt TB transmission
16. Multi-site projects done in coordination with DGMQ U.S. – Mexico Unit sister station in El Paso, and DGMQ headquarters in Atlanta, GA

Preparedness Role

The Fellow will receive training and experience in bioterrorism preparedness and response through DGMQ's CDC activities and extensive work in San Diego County and along the US Mexico border. The fellow will take part in the design and operation of preparedness tabletop exercises. If emergency response such as H1N1 is needed, the fellow will play an appropriate role on the epidemiology team.

Assignment Location: San Diego, CA

Primary Mentor: Stephen Waterman, MD, MPH
Senior Medical Epidemiologist
Division of Global Migration and Quarantine, CDC

Secondary Mentor: Michele Ginsberg, MD
Chief
County of San Diego Epidemiology and Immunization Services
Branch