

Infectious Disease

The mission of the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine is to decrease morbidity and mortality from communicable diseases among mobile populations, including immigrants, refugees, migrant workers, and travelers. The Division is comprised of three branches the Immigrant, Refugee and Migrant Health branch, the Geographic Medicine and Health Promotion Branch, and our own Quarantine and Border Health Services Branch. The Quarantine and Border Health Services Branch is charged to (1) administer a national quarantine program to protect the United States against the introduction of communicable diseases from foreign countries; (2) prevent and control infectious disease spread between States; and (3) partner with and support other federal agencies, State and local health departments, and others at the ports of entry. The Quarantine Border Health Services Branch (QBHSB) is experiencing a time of strategic growth, opening new Quarantine stations with new staff, and forming permanent partnerships with many agencies responsible for the safety of international travelers and the US public. CDC staff at quarantine stations work with airline, maritime and land border partners to identify and assess ill travelers and work very closely with local and state health departments to investigate post-arrival illness notifications.

The fellow will spend about 90% of time assisting the Surveillance Team in improving surveillance for illnesses associated with international travel including improving identification of ill persons who have a history of recent international travel, identifying ways to improve the electronic data collection system, assisting with preparation of surveillance reports, and sharing results with partners. Additionally, the fellow will spend 10% percent of duties assisting with illness response at the CDC San Francisco Quarantine Station, based at the San Francisco International Airport. The Fellow will have the opportunity to participate in outbreak investigations that are associated with travel on conveyances.

Overall, the Fellow will have a fair amount of flexibility to identify areas of interest and to develop specific projects within those areas. Potential projects include illness investigations to determine risk of disease transmission on conveyances, data analysis of routinely gathered surveillance data at ports of entry, establishment of special projects at the San Francisco Quarantine Station to enhance illness reporting, etc. Because we rely on partners for our surveillance, the fellow will have the opportunity to work with subject matter experts at CDC, and with local health department partners. Additionally, the Fellow would be able to begin a joint project conducted with the California Department of Public Health on strengthening surveillance to detect communicable diseases among recent international travelers.

The fellow will evaluate and work with the Quarantine Activity Reporting System, which is the electronic data base used by quarantine station staff to capture information regarding ill travelers.

The Quarantine Station and the San Francisco Airport have an emergency preparedness plan to respond to communicable diseases and are developing the specifics of a quarantine response plan. The Fellow could participate in that process, specifically regarding conducting surveillance to identify ill travelers who may require quarantine.

Assignment Location: San Francisco, CA

Primary Mentor: Mary Agocs, MD, M.Sc.

CDC Quarantine Medical Officer, CDC San Francisco Quarantine Station

Advanced Degrees: M.Sc., London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (1994)

MD, University of Florida (1987)

Secondary Mentor: Daniel Fishbein, MD

Medical Epidemiologist, National Immunization Program

CDC

Advanced Degree: MD, Medical College of Wisconsin (1976)