

**ID: 55990178**

**Infectious Diseases - Host Site Description**

**Denton County Public Health**

**Assignment Location:** Denton, US-TX  
Denton County Public Health  
Preparedness

**Primary Mentor:** Juan Rodriguez, MPH  
Assistant Director, Chief Epidemiologist  
Denton County Public Health

**Secondary Mentor:** Felicia Hopkins, RN, MPH  
Division Manager of Health Preparedness and Response  
Denton County Public Health

**Work Environment**

100% In-person

**Assignment Description**

- Investigate outbreaks of infectious disease.
- Interview contacts of infectious disease.
- Inspect facilities possibly associated with infectious disease and coordinates quality assurance and evaluation of program activities.
- Coordinate closely with Chief Epidemiologist regarding interviews and investigations.
- Prepares periodic reports summarizing the incidence of infectious disease.
- Presentation and publication of data and epidemiologic findings informing public health staff, partners, and the public.
- Develop provider database and regularly provides technical assistance to hospitals, laboratories, and other health care providers to ensure compliance with testing and reporting procedures.
- As a member of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) division, provide support in responding to incidents, planned events and disaster responses.
- Performs other related duties as required.

**Describe Statistical and Data Analysis Support, Such as Databases, Software, and Surveillance Systems Available to the Fellow**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Microsoft Office</li><li>• Adobe</li><li>• NEDSS</li><li>• Immtrac</li><li>• Essence Syndromic Surveillance</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quickbase</li><li>• NORS</li><li>• ArcGIS</li><li>• ITEAMS</li><li>• BioSense</li></ul> |
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**Projects**

**Surveillance Activity Title: Epidemiology Annual Report**

*Surveillance Activity Description:*

Denton County's annual surveillance reports are intended for public health professionals, local stake holders, policymakers involved in disease prevention and control programs. They provide a comprehensive and detailed analysis

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of the infectious diseases affecting Denton County each year. These annual reports are made public on the Denton County Public Health website.

*Surveillance Activity Objectives:*

The CSTE fellow would be responsible for collecting data and information from the National Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS), as well as the analysis and assisting in the publication.

Expected deliverables:

- Quarterly summary of trends and analysis of infectious diseases.
- Meetings with Disease Control and Prevention team (STD/TB/Hansen's).

*Surveillance Activity Impact:*

Community awareness and information sharing of disease trends.

**Surveillance System Evaluation Title: Internal Epidemiological Process Analysis**

*Surveillance System Evaluation Description:*

The CSTE fellow would be responsible for analyzing the Epi team's internal process of their case work.

*Surveillance System Objectives:*

The CSTE fellow would be responsible for examine current epidemiologist workflow and identify key areas for improvement.

Expected deliverables:

- Evaluate surveillance and epidemiological investigation outcomes to identify deficiencies encountered during case investigations and recommend opportunities for improvement.
- Host meetings with Epi team and PHEP leadership sharing quarterly finding on how to improve workflow and be more efficient.

*Surveillance System Impact:*

Improving our process efficiency ensures that disease surveillance occurs more quickly allowing for public health intervention to take place in a more timely manner. This has the potential to improve the health outcomes for our community as a whole.

**Major Project Title: Analysis of stakeholder engagement and the surveillance data collection process for the Annual report**

*Major Project Description:*

An assessment of the usefulness of Denton County's Public Health surveillance system and Epi Annual Report.

*Major Project Objectives:*

The CSTE fellow would be responsible for assessing internal agency surveillance and epidemiologic investigation systems and implement quality improvement measures within the Denton County Public Health Epi team.

Expected deliverables:

- Evaluate surveillance and epidemiological investigation outcomes to identify deficiencies encountered during data collection and recommend opportunities for improvement.

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- Contacting stakeholders to update contact information and develop survey for them to give feedback on public health interventions.
- Host meetings with Epi team and PHEP leadership sharing quarterly finding on how to improve workflow and be more efficient.

*Major Project Impact:*

Improving our process efficiency in data collection ensures that public reports take place in a more timely manner. Stakeholders play a key role in assisting the community where we cannot, receiving their feedback is imperative to improving the health outcomes of our county.

**Additional Project #1 Title: CASPER - The Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Respons**

**Project #1 Type: Major Project**

*Project #1 Description:*

The Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) serves as a crucial tool in gathering essential public health information at the household level. By prioritizing health concerns and assessing community preparedness, CASPER contributes to the overarching mission of promoting, preserving, and sustaining community health. Through comprehensive education, compassionate care, and the delivery of quality services, CASPER supports the development of effective strategies and interventions that address the unique needs of communities in times of emergencies.

*Project #1 Objectives and Expected Deliverables:*

The CSTE fellow would be responsible for working with our Preparedness team, Community Health and Epidemiology Analysis group for when we conduct the CASPER.

Expected deliverables:

- Evaluate questions with team and recommend opportunities for improvement.
- Regular attendance to meetings.
- Training on FEMA ICS 100, 200, 700, 800 for NIMS Knowledge. (If the budget allows we will try and get 300/400 to come to Denton County - TEEX has been able to come every year and teach that course)

*Project #1 Impact:*

Denton County Public Health will conduct a Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) in April 2024. This CASPER is a 2-stage cluster sampling method designed to provide household-based information about a community's needs in a timely, inexpensive, and representative manner.

This health assessment will provide a new baseline of health data for county leadership, first responders and community partners to implement changes to better serve the population. Assessing the preparedness levels of communities can assist public health and other agencies plan for disasters or emergencies and tailor messaging to increase community engagement. This can include determining if households have emergency plans; supply kits; adequate food, water, and medicine; intended evacuation (or no evacuation) plans; and preferred, trusted communication sources.

The information generated can be used to initiate public health action; facilitate public health emergency planning, response, and recovery activities; and assess new or changing community needs during the disaster recovery period.

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**Please Describe the Fellow's Anticipated Role in Preparedness and Response Efforts – Include Activities and Time Allocation (Required Competency of Fellowship)**

The CSTE fellow may assist our Public Health Preparedness team in various activities if needed, which can include Annex updates, POD Management, FEMA/TEEX/ICS trainings or any other various responses to local public health emergencies. Time allotment would be less than 5% most likely.

**Please Describe the Fellow's Anticipated Role in Cluster and Outbreak Investigations – Include Activities and Time Allocation (Required Competency of Fellowship)**

The CSTE fellow may assist our epidemiology team in long term care outbreak case investigations whether they are COVID19 or HAI which may lead to participating in an Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICARs) depending on the situation. Time allocation is less than 10% of their perspective role, as we only work these outbreaks when they come in. Outbreaks that occur may take priority over other tasks.

**Please Describe the Fellow's Anticipated Role in the COVID-19 Response – Include Activities and Time Allocation**

The CSTE fellow may assist in COVID19 case investigations, death investigations which include analyzing medical records, and managing our COVID19 case investigator contract staff. Time allocation is 10% depending on the number of cases at the time.

**Please Describe Opportunities for Fellows to Work in Health Equity as well as Incorporating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion into their Work**

Denton County Public Health has an internal Health Equity Council, there may be an opportunity for our fellow to sit in and participate in discussions on how to improve equity in the county and our internal department.