



Infectious Disease: Outbreak Response Infrastructure

All local public health agencies in Colorado are required to track the incidence and distribution of disease in the population and prevent and control vaccine-preventable diseases, zoonotic, vector, air-borne, water-borne and food-borne illnesses, and other diseases transmitted person-to-person. This includes, collecting and reporting disease information, investigating cases of reportable disease and suspected outbreaks, assuring immunizations using established standards and monitoring community immunization levels, taking appropriate measures to prevent disease transmission and working closely with CDPHE in communicable disease investigation and control, particularly if the investigation crosses county lines or technical assistance is needed. In order to assure the state capacity in doing so, the infectious disease winnable battle focuses on building outbreak response infrastructure through development of the workforces and electronic reporting and tracking systems.



STATEWIDE GOAL: Improve public health's ability to monitor, detect, and respond to outbreaks or unusual trends in infectious diseases through epidemiology workforce development and augmented electronic reporting and tracking systems.

STRATEGIES:

Workforce Development

- 1. Distribute and promote national competencies for use when hiring, evaluating and promoting epidemiology staff, and developing contracts for epidemiologic services.**

Objective 1: Increase the number of CDPHE epidemiology position descriptions, hiring announcements, and contracts that incorporate national standards.

Objective 2: Increase the number of local public health agencies that receive information on national competencies from CDPHE.

- 2. Offer outbreak investigation and epidemiology training opportunities for epidemiologists working in state and local public health agencies.**

Objective 1: Increase the number of training opportunities offered and number of individuals trained.

Electronic Reporting and Tracking Systems

- 1. Develop and launch a new electronic disease reporting system that will be more user-friendly and allow greater functionality to identify outbreaks and co-infections.**

Objective 1: Develop and launch new electronic system.

Objective 2: Increase the number of users trained on new system.

- 2. Increase the number of electronic laboratory reporting connections and connections with the Colorado Immunization Information System, through purchase and implementation of a connectivity engine and work with Health Information Exchanges.**

Objective 1: Purchase and implement a connectivity engine.

Objective 2: Increase the number of new electronic laboratory reporting and Colorado Immunization Information System connections.