

Infectious Disease Epidemiology - Medical Epidemiology Section

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Infectious diseases continue to threaten the welfare of Maine residents and visitors. While traditional diseases like influenza, salmonella, and rabies challenge us each day, we are also witnessing emerging disease threats. Diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, West Nile Virus, a virulent strain of avian influenza, or a new drug-resistant form of Staphylococcus Aureas, continue to change the infectious disease landscape. These, along with threats and acts of biological terrorism, remind us all that we cannot become complacent. Our vigilance and heightened appreciation for the destructiveness and adaptability of infectious microbes is critical for their prevention and control.



John E. Baldacci, Governor Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner

*Emergency Consultation and Disease
Reporting Line:-800-821-5821*

*Kathleen Gensheimer, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist*

*Andrew Pelletier, MD
Acting Program Manager
286 Water Street, 8th Floor
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Telephone: 207-287-3960
TTY: 800-606-0215
Fax: 207-287-8186
dwane.hubert@maine.gov*

The Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program's primary purpose is to study the distribution and determinants of notifiable infectious diseases among residents and visitors in Maine and to apply this study to the prevention and control of infectious disease. Special emphasis is given to the detection, prevention and control of emerging and reemerging public health threats in Maine, such as tuberculosis, influenza, arboviral encephalitis and drug resistant organisms. Disease reporting from community health care providers and laboratorians constitutes the basis for effective public health prevention and intervention efforts. Program staff is primarily infectious disease epidemiologists, who combine clinical expertise and advanced education to accomplish Program goals and objectives and to influence public policy. They are centrally located in the State's capital and throughout eight regions across the state. The Medical Epidemiology Section provides scientific leadership, quality assurance, advanced consultation, and medical and veterinary expertise to the Division of Infectious Disease, policy makers and health professionals across the State.

Primary activities:

- ❑ Conducting infectious disease surveillance, which includes data collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination;
- ❑ Providing consultation and education on infectious disease prevention and control to health care providers, laboratorians, and institutions;
- ❑ Investigating disease cases, clusters and outbreaks and implement actions for disease control;
- ❑ Providing support for special initiatives targeting infectious diseases, in order to raise public awareness, provide specialized consultation, and coordinate services, laboratory testing and disease tracking;
- ❑ Providing public health alerts, advisories and updates to key public health stakeholders.

Funding Sources:

96% Federal; 4% General Fund

Budget: \$1.8 million (FY07)

Staff Count: 20 (includes 8 contract positions)