

2019 Annual Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Conference Agenda

September 24-26, 2019

Crowne Plaza Austin Hotel, Austin, TX

Tuesday, September 24, 2019 Trainings

Begin Time	End Time	Topic	Instructors
7:00AM	8:00AM	Registration and Check-in	
8:00AM	12:00PM	<p>Advanced Excel</p> <p>This session will cover basic and advanced skills in Excel to improve data reporting. Topics will include formulae, pivot tables, epidemic curve, 2x2 table statistics, and basic mapping.</p>	<p><i>Greg Leos</i>, MPH, CPH, CIC, Epidemiologist, Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) Team Lead, EAIDB</p> <p><i>Jennifer Vinyard</i>, MPH, CIC, Epidemiologist, Healthcare Safety Data Team Lead, EAIDB</p> <p><i>Andrea Salinas</i>, MPH, CPH, CIC, Epidemiologist, VPD, EAIDB</p>
12:00PM	1:30PM	Lunch on your own	
1:30PM	5:00PM	<p>Introduction to Epi Info™ 7</p> <p>This session will introduce the Epi Info™ 7 database and statistics program using a foodborne outbreak investigation scenario. At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the workspace of the different modules and identify its key features • Design simple data entry forms using the Form Designer • Implement intelligence to data entry forms using Check Code • Enter records into an Epi Info™ 7 form • Read multiple data sources and utilize the Visual Dashboard and/or Classic Analysis modules for manipulating, managing, and analyzing data • Generate statistics like Frequencies, 2x2 Tables, and Means using the Visual Dashboard • Output results into HTML, Excel or Word formats • Generate cluster case and choropleth maps using Epi Map 	<p><i>José J. Aponte</i>, Informatics Services Branch, Division of Health Informatics and Surveillance, Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Services, Office of Public Health Scientific Services, CDC</p> <p>The Epi Info™ 7 software can be downloaded at https://www.cdc.gov/epiinfo/pc.html</p> <p>Participants will be required to bring their laptops with the software installed before the session. Participants should be familiar with Windows 7 or Windows 10 systems. Database or relational database experience is advisable.</p>

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Tuesday, September 24, 2019 Influenza Surveillance Workshop

Begin Time	End Time	Topic	Speakers
7:00AM	8:00AM	Registration and Check-in	
8:00AM	8:15AM	Welcome/Introduction	<i>Johnathan Ledbetter</i> , MPH, Foodborne, Invasive & Respiratory, Waterborne Diseases Team Manager, EAIDB
8:15AM	9:00AM	2018-2019 Influenza Season in Texas and Jeopardy! This interactive session will provide a summary of the 2018-2019 Influenza season while participating in a fun Jeopardy-style game.	<i>Hailey Rucas</i> , MPH, Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit, Austin Public Health
9:00AM	9:15AM	What Everyone Ought to Know About the Trends Affecting ILINet Flu Surveillance in Texas. The future can best be seen by those who are creating it. Many of us will be or are facing change rather transition. Flu Coordinator will not be an exception. This presentation will briefly outline the concepts due to impact current Flu Surveillance primarily the ILINet.	<i>Robert "Bob" Russin</i> , State ILINet Coordinator /Invasive and Respiratory Infectious Disease Team, EAIDB
9:15AM	9:35AM	Flu/Respiratory Section of the Hurricane CoAg Grant In the wake of the 2017 Hurricane Harvey event, the Texas Department of State Health Services received emergency funding from CDC to Provide support related to restoring and strengthening epidemiologic and laboratory surveillance capabilities for foodborne, waterborne, enteric, zoonotic and respiratory infectious diseases, including work supporting: Skilled personnel needs, Lab surge capacity, lab equipment, reagents, maintenance agreements, and lab quality management systems/activities This presentation will highlight the work completed under the CoAg grant, milestones achieved, and lessons learned.	<i>Tyler Zerwekh</i> , DrPH, REHS, Epidemiologist III, Waterborne, Invasive and Respiratory Infectious Disease (WIRID) Team, EAIDB
9:35AM	9:45AM	Influenza Surveillance Q&A	Influenza Surveillance Team, EAIDB
9:45AM	10:00AM	Break	
10:00AM	11:00AM	Influenza Pandemic Preparedness: Current Global Strategy This presentation will focus on the current strategic objectives aimed at strengthening influenza pandemic preparedness and health security outlined by the WHO. This will include a detailed analysis of current global surveillance	<i>Natalie Kay Lee</i> , PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow in Infectious Disease Therapeutics, Infectious Diseases Virology Division, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

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		trends used to determine influenza virus vaccine compositions and address our current understanding of specific risk factors associated with severe influenza infections.	
11:00AM	12:00PM	<p>Minnesota FluSurv-NET</p> <p>This presentation will introduce Minnesota’s experience with the FluSurv-NET surveillance program. Information on protocols, data collection, and special projects will be presented, as well as some summary data from Minnesota.</p>	<p><i>Melissa McMahon</i>, MPH, Senior Epidemiologist, Vaccine Preventable Disease Surveillance, Minnesota Department of Health</p>
12:00PM	1:30PM	Lunch on your own	
1:30PM	2:30PM	<p>Influenza Update: A National Perspective</p> <p>This presentation will provide a national perspective on the previous influenza season, describing the disease epidemiology as well as the preliminary coverage rates for the 2018-2019 season. Included will be a detail of vaccine effectiveness for the previous season and a discussion the importance and effectiveness of influenza vaccination beyond the incidence of disease prevented. Any changes in the ACIP recommendations for influenza vaccination and any changes in vaccine supply and availability will be highlighted.</p>	<p><i>Litjen (LJ) Tan</i>, MS, PhD, Chief Strategy Officer, Immunization Action Coalition</p>
2:30PM	5:00PM	<p>Influenza Table-Top Exercise</p> <p>This will be a pandemic flu tabletop exercise to examine epidemiologists, laboratorians, and other health officials core capabilities and distinct critical elements necessary to achieve a successful influenza response, recovery, and mitigation. By the end of this tabletop, the attendees will be able to understand their ability to deliver medical care, medical countermeasures, and health assessments to those affected by a pandemic incident. Attendees will also discuss effective command structure and necessary plans, policies, and other needs during a pandemic incident.</p>	<p><i>Tyler Zerwekh</i>, DrPH, REHS, Epidemiologist III, Waterborne, Invasive and Respiratory Infectious Disease, WIRID Team, EAIDB</p> <p><i>Greg Leos</i>, MPH, CPH, CIC, Epidemiologist, VPD Team Lead, EAIDB</p> <p><i>Johnathan Ledbetter</i>, MPH, Foodborne, Invasive & Respiratory, and Waterborne Diseases Team Manager, EAIDB</p> <p><i>Jennifer Gonzalez</i>, Microbiologist III, Team Lead, Viral Isolation Section, Medical Virology Group, DSHS Laboratory</p> <p><i>Denise Starkey</i>, MPH, MA, Adolescent and Adult Immunization Coordinator, Immunization Unit, Texas DSHS</p> <p><i>Steven Pulvino</i>, MPH, CPH, CIC, Epidemiologist, Public Health Region 2/3, Texas DSHS</p>
5:00PM	5:00PM	Complete and Submit Evaluations	

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Wednesday, September 25, 2019 Plenary Sessions

Begin Time	End Time	Topic	Speakers
7:00AM	8:00AM	Registration and Check-in	
8:00AM	8:30AM	Opening Address—Texas State of The State	<i>Linda K. Gaul, PhD, MPH, Texas State Epidemiologist</i>
8:30AM	9:30AM	<p>When Outbreaks Happen in Paradise</p> <p>This presentation will review of two recent major outbreaks in Hawaii (dengue 2015–16 and hepatitis A 2016) and public health’s response to them. In both outbreaks, fear of disease motivated both positive and negative reactions in the community. The dengue outbreak ignited a political and public firestorm where safeguarding the privacy/location of cases was often challenged. Meanwhile, fear of hepatitis A motivated many to seek vaccination, as the outbreak outcome both emphasized and depended on the success of vaccines.</p>	<i>Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP, Hawaii State Epidemiologist</i>
9:30AM	9:45AM	Break	
9:45AM	10:40am	<p>Zoonotic Disease Updates</p> <p>Zoonotic disease epidemiology and surveillance updates for 2018, notable trends, and 2019 case definition changes will be reviewed.</p>	<p><i>Laura E. Robinson, DVM, MS, Assistant State Public Health Veterinarian, Zoonosis Control Branch (ZCB)</i></p> <p><i>Kelly Broussard, MPH, Epidemiologist, ZCB</i></p> <p><i>Briana O’Sullivan, MPH, Epidemiologist; ZCB</i></p>
9:45AM	10:45 am	<p>Hepatitis C Surveillance in Texas</p> <p>This presentation will provide an overview of HCV surveillance activities and epidemiologic data in Texas. It will also present an overview of the next steps in creating a robust HCV surveillance system and describe HCV prevention efforts in Texas.</p>	<i>Carlos Alvarez, MPH, CPH, Epidemiologist, TB/HIV/STD Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Texas DSHS</i>
11:15AM	11:25AM	<p>Prion Disease and Corneal Transplants</p> <p>This presentation will cover an investigation into bilateral corneal transplants in a confirmed CJD case.</p>	<i>Rachael Straver, DVM, MPH, HCID/Prion Team Lead Epidemiologist, EAIDB</i>
11:25AM	11:35AM	ESSENCE Overview	Tarrant County Public Health

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Begin Time	End Time	Topic	Speakers
11:35AM	11:45AM	<p>Increase in Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis in Texas</p> <p>The increase in Syphilis cases throughout Texas over the last few years, especially among females, is a contributing factor to the rise in Congenital Syphilis as well. Descriptive statistics on Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis from 2016-2018 will be shared. Case studies will be presented and what is being done to prevent the spread of Syphilis.</p>	<p><i>Jessica Romano</i>, MPH, Epidemiologist, TB/HIV/STD Section, Epidemiology and Supplemental Projects Group, Texas DSHS</p>
11:45AM	1:00PM	Lunch on your own	
1:00PM	1:30PM	Poster Presentations	
1:30PM	2:00PM	<p>Mumps in Immigration Detention Facilities in Texas, Oct 2018 – Present</p> <p>This presentation will discuss the ongoing spread of mumps within immigration detention facilities. Challenges and successes in communicating with multiple jurisdictions will be discussed. National and state cases counts will be discussed.</p>	<p><i>Greg Leos</i>, MPH, CPH, CIC, Epidemiologist, VPD Team Lead, EAIDB</p> <p><i>Kelsey Sanders</i>, MPH, Epidemiologist, VPD, EAIDB</p>
2:00PM	2:25PM	<p>Primary Amebic Encephalitis in a Man-Made Water Attraction</p> <p>This presentation will discuss the first PAM case associated with a man-made water attraction in the State of Texas. The investigation involved multiple organizations from and outside the State of Texas, resulting in closure of property.</p>	<p><i>Lacey Sanders</i>, MPH, Infectious Disease Epidemiologist, Waco-McLennan County Public Health District</p>
2:30PM	3:30PM	<p>NEDSS—Avoiding a Case Rejection!</p> <p>Review of guidance, expectations, and requirements for infectious disease investigation and reporting via NEDSS.</p>	<p><i>Kamesha Owens</i>, MPH, Program Specialist IV, ZCB</p> <p><i>Tyler Zerwekh</i>, DrPH, REHS, Epidemiologist III, WIRID Team, EAIDB</p> <p><i>Adrienne Fung</i>, MPH, Epidemiologist, Foodborne Illness Team, EAIDB</p> <p><i>Andrea Salinas</i>, MPH, CPH, CIC, Epidemiologist and <i>Greg Leos</i>, MPH, CPH, CIC, Epidemiologist, VPD, EAIDB</p> <p><i>Alex Daniels</i>, MPH, Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI), Preventable Adverse Events (PAE), Healthcare Safety Team, EAIDB</p>

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Begin Time	End Time	Topic	Speakers
3:30PM	3:45PM	Break	
3:45PM	4:45PM	<p>Partnerships in Public Health: A Public Health Legal Perspective</p> <p>This presentation will answer the question “How do we legally exchange health-related information in our various partnerships for public health while still maintaining confidentiality?” The roles and responsibilities of the Local Health Departments (LHD) and what distinguishes LHD from Public Health Regions will also be discussed including the laws that govern both entities.</p>	<p><i>Rashandra C. Hayes, J.D. Attorney, Policy Department, Office of Chief Counsel, HHSC</i></p> <p><i>Jennifer Q. Nguyen, J.D., Attorney, Policy Department, Office of Chief Counsel, HHSC</i></p>

Thursday, September 26, 2019 Breakout Sessions followed by Plenary Sessions

Begin Time	End Time	Topic	Speakers
7:00AM	8:00AM	Registration and Check-in	
8:00AM	9:30AM	<p>The Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) Triumvirate: Epi, Immunizations, and the Lab</p> <p>This session will cover topics from the three entities involved with most VPD investigations and outbreaks. Each will discuss important information that central office would like to communicate to Local and Regional personnel.</p>	<p><i>Greg Leos, MPH, CPH, CIC, Epidemiologist, Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) Team Lead, EAIDB</i></p> <p><i>Kelsey Sanders, MPH, CIC, Epidemiologist, VPD, EAIDB</i></p> <p><i>Andrea Salinas, MPH, CPH, CIC, Epidemiologist, VPD, EAIDB</i></p>
8:00AM	9:30AM	<p>Just Call Me Number Two: A Presentation of Selected Foodborne Outbreaks in Texas and Surveillance/Report Training</p> <p>Foodborne illnesses are caused by a variety of enteric pathogens that exist in the form of bacteria, viruses, and parasites. Due to advancements in clinical laboratory testing over recent years, there has been an increase in the number of reported cases who have a notifiable foodborne condition. This trend is a growing public health concern because as cases increase, accurate reporting and epidemiologic investigations are essential to the detection and mitigation of foodborne outbreaks. This session will provide an overview of selected foodborne outbreaks that have occurred this year in Texas, with an additional focus on surveillance training. Emphasis will be placed on how to navigate and report local outbreaks in the National Outbreak Reporting</p>	<p><i>Adrienne Fung, MPH, Epidemiologist, FB Illness Team, EAIDB</i></p> <p><i>Jonathan Kolsin, MPH, Epidemiologist, FB Illness Team, EAIDB</i></p>

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Begin Time	End Time	Topic	Speakers
		System (NORS) website. A discussion of helpful tips and guidelines to maximize the success of a complete foodborne disease case report will be held.	
8:00AM	9:30AM	<p>Tips, Tools, and Resources for Submitting Samples to the Texas DSHS Laboratory</p> <p>In this session, the DSHS laboratory folks will share helpful information for public health partners who submit specimens to the lab. We'll discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSHS Lab Forms • Do's and don'ts of specimen submission & most common errors • Ordering of laboratory supplies • Specimen collection, storing, packaging, and shipping • Where to find lab ordering, shipping, and specimen acceptability information • Expectations for laboratory results 	<p><i>Cari Sloma, PhD, D(ABMM), DSHS Laboratory</i> <i>Robert Lewis, DSHS Laboratory</i></p>
9:30AM	9:45AM	Break	
9:45AM	10:45AM	<p>Basics of Potable Water Systems: The Interplay of Mechanical, Operational and Chemical Challenges</p> <p>In-premise water distribution systems can develop biofilm within a few days, even when the influent water meets drinking water criteria. Biofilms host bacteria, amoeba, algae and other microorganisms, which can be released under the force of water flow and subsequently travel to the points of use, i.e. showers and faucets. Biofilm provides a protective environment from chemical and thermal disinfectants and is extremely difficult to eradicate, once established. However, biofilms can contain opportunistic waterborne pathogens, which are potentially harmful for immunocompromised people, including <i>Legionella pneumophila</i>, <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>, among others and have been shown to be a major cause of severe infections, including pneumonia, in high-risk patient populations. This session will describe a multi-barrier approach to reduce risks.</p>	<p><i>Michael Castro, MPH, Product Manager</i> <i>Western Hemisphere Healthcare Water</i> <i>Portfolio, Pall Medical</i></p>
9:45AM	10:45AM	<p>Texas Rapid Response Team and Foodborne Emergencies</p> <p>The Texas Rapid Response Team (TRRT) is an all-hazards response group that addresses food and feed emergencies affecting the state of Texas. This</p>	<p><i>Tishara Coleman, MPA, REHS/RS, Texas</i> <i>Rapid Response Team Coordinator, Consumer</i> <i>Protection Division, Texas DSHS</i></p>

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		presentation will give an overview of the history and function of the TRRT. A walkthrough of past TRRT activations will also be discussed.	
9:45AM	10:45AM	<p>HAI-lights from the Field</p> <p>This presentation will be a lightning session covering some of the interesting investigations that occurred in the last year. Topics will include infections related to medical devices, contaminated products, medical tourism, and blood transfusions, as well as community-wide outbreaks of carbapenemase producing organisms.</p>	<p><i>Susana Baumann</i>, MPH, CIC, Epidemiologist, Healthcare Associated Infections, Texas DSHS</p> <p><i>Gillian Blackwell</i>, BSN, RN, CIC, Epidemiologist, Healthcare Associated Infections, Texas DSHS</p> <p><i>Gretchen Rodriguez</i>, MPH, CIC, Epidemiologist, Healthcare Associated Infections, Texas DSHS</p> <p><i>Melba Zambrano</i>, MSN-IC, RN, CIC, Epidemiologist, Healthcare Associated Infections, Texas DSHS</p> <p><i>Anna Nutt</i>, MPH, CIC, Epidemiologist, Healthcare Associated Infections, Texas DSHS</p> <p><i>Thi Dang</i>, MPH, CHES, CIC, FAPIC, Epidemiologist, Healthcare Associated Infections, Texas DSHS</p> <p><i>Bobbiejean Garcia</i>, MPH, CIC, FAPIC; Epidemiologist, Healthcare Associated Infections, Texas DSHS</p>
10:45AM	11:45AM	<p>Water Management, Environmental Sampling and Outbreak Investigation</p> <p>United States healthcare facilities are required to have a Water Management Program (WMP) to address the risks from growth and spread of opportunistic waterborne pathogens. Developing a plan requires input from a cross-functional team. A collaborative relationship between clinical and facility management stakeholders is critical. Without bringing together experience, evidence-based medicine and engineering solutions, the WMT may not achieve sustainable results. Environmental water sampling and outbreak investigation will be described.</p>	<p><i>Michael Castro</i>, MPH, Product Manager Western Hemisphere Healthcare Water Portfolio, Pall Medical</p>

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Begin Time	End Time	Topic	Speakers
10:45AM	11:45AM	<p>Zoonotic Disease Investigations</p> <p>Using a case scenario format, Zoonosis Control Branch (ZCB) epidemiologists will provide guidance on testing recommendations, case classification, and investigation of reportable zoonotic diseases. The availability of testing through the public health laboratory system and the process for requesting special testing will be discussed.</p>	ZCB Epidemiologists
10:45AM	11:45AM	<p>A Texas Response to Antimicrobial Resistance</p> <p>Antimicrobial resistance is a local, state, national, and worldwide problem that affects everyone; leading to higher treatment costs, longer hospital stays, and unnecessary deaths. Anytime an antibiotic, antifungal, or antiviral is used, appropriately or inappropriately, antimicrobial resistant organisms are selected (antimicrobial sensitive organisms are killed, and antimicrobial resistant organisms persist). Antimicrobial stewardship is a coordinated program that promotes the appropriate use of antimicrobials (including antibiotics), improves patient outcomes, reduces microbial resistance, and decreases the spread of infections caused by multidrug-resistant organisms. In promoting the implementation of the CDC's recommended core elements of a successful and sustainable antimicrobial stewardship program across all healthcare settings, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) works with healthcare professionals to improve prescribing practices (right drug, dose, and duration) and patient outcomes. During this presentation, Dr. Fischer will discuss the key issues in the implementation of the core elements of an antimicrobial stewardship program and provide examples of interventions to improve antibiotic usage in the healthcare setting.</p>	<i>Michael Fischer</i> MD, MPH & TM, Antibiotic Stewardship Expert, Texas DSHS
11:45AM	1:00PM	Lunch on you own	
1:00PM	2:00PM	<p>Preparing for and Responding to the Current Multi-State Hepatitis A Outbreak: The Shelby County Experience</p> <p>Currently the United States is working to control a nationwide outbreak of Hepatitis A involving 25 states, 21,000 + diagnosed cases and 200+ deaths. The Shelby County Health Department in Memphis, Tennessee has been collaborating with the state health department to identify and investigate cases, implement control measures and prevent transmission for populations most at risk. The presentation will review these efforts in detail.</p>	<i>David Sweat</i> , MPH, Administrator, Bureau of Epidemiology & Infectious Disease, Shelby County Health Department, Memphis, Tennessee

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Begin Time	End Time	Topic	Speakers
2:00PM	2:15PM	Break	
2:15PM	3:15PM	<p>Risk, Crisis, and Emergency Communication: When Emotions, Feelings, and Facts Collide</p> <p>The goal of this presentation is to provide science-based information on how to communicate more effectively about high stress, high stakes, and emotionally charged issues. The presentation will focus on public health crises such as those caused by disease outbreaks and the anti-vaccination movement.</p>	Vincent T. Covello, PhD, Founder and Director, Center for Risk Communication
3:15PM	3:45PM	Closing Address	<i>Pending</i>
3:45PM	4:00PM	Final Comments and Instructions for Online Evaluations	Eric Garza, MPH, Epidemiologist, HCID Team, Texas Department of State Health Services