CSTE’s surveillance and informatics work encompasses broad surveillance tools such as electronic laboratory reporting, electronic disease surveillance, and developing and refining technical requirements, standards and overall architecture through collaborations and specialty workgroups. CSTE’s surveillance/informatics subcommittees and workgroups collaborate with CDC, ASTHO, NACCHO, APHL, PHDSC, PHII, and other organizations to facilitate and increase information sharing within the informatics community.

CSTE Surveillance/Informatics Activities

- Surveillance/Informatics subcommittees hold regular conference calls to discuss issues of interest to members and share best practices.
- Electronic Laboratory and Disease Reporting Subcommittee: CSTE and CDC are partnering to identify remaining gaps for nationwide implementation of electronic laboratory reporting. This subcommittee will also address priority activities related to electronic disease surveillance systems, including a 2012 National Electronic Disease Surveillance System Assessment.
- The Steering Committee is charged with developing a framework for identifying common and disease-specific data elements for the review of generic and disease specific case report and investigation forms.
- CSTE members participate in the Joint Public Health Informatics Taskforce comprised of multiple public health partners, who together will advance the informatics agenda of the national public health enterprise.
- State Reportable Conditions Assessment (SRCA): CSTE annually assesses the reporting requirements for conditions and diseases in each state and territory. Results are used by CDC in the MMWR and made available on the CSTE website.
- The Surveillance/Informatics Steering Committee is also charged with the standardization of the Nationally Notifiable Conditions position statements.
- An MMWR publication on state electronic disease surveillance systems was published in October 2011.
- Applied Public Health Informatics Fellowship: CSTE, in collaboration with CDC, ASTHO and PHII, are administering a capacity building fellowship program placing public health informaticists in state and local health departments.
- To strengthen applied public health informatics capacity, CSTE is sponsoring 10 epidemiologists to complete the University of Illinois at Chicago’s online Public Health Informatics certificate program. Beginning June 2012, this online, distance-based course will enhance their skills and proficiency in managing public health surveillance information systems.

STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR:
Janet Hamilton

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR
Electronic Laboratory and Disease Reporting
Kathy Turner
Surveillance Indicators
Richard Hopkins
Surveillance Policy
Tim Jones
Surveillance Practice and Implementation
Lesliann Helmus

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For more information about all of CSTE’s activities and news.