**Assignment Description**

The CSTE Fellow would be assigned to DOCD under the mentorship of Dr. Park and Mr. Johnston; this assignment would allow the fellow to have exposures and experiences within both branches of DOCD (Disease Investigation Branch and Immunization Branch). Involvement in these areas would include participating in investigations of, for example, foodborne and vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks, enhancing existing systems including developing and/or improving questionnaires, and analyzing and interpreting data collected. The fellow would also have the opportunity to participate in other areas of interest (e.g., participation in the annual school-located flu vaccination program or assessments of hospital-associated infections) as long as his/her primary project was progressing as agreed upon with his/her mentors. In addition, the Fellow would be expected to gain experience in managing and addressing public inquiries through occasional but regular assignment as the duty officer of the day; this responsibility would lead to sometimes investigating individual cases of infectious disease and potentially being the lead investigator for a disease outbreak response.

**Day-to-Day Activities**

The Fellow’s primary project would be his/her main focus. In addition, depending on the fellow’s initiative, efficiency, and interest, he/she may engage in other activities (e.g., minor involvement in a major project or another smaller project or investigation). The daily schedule would include time for background research and documentation. As part of the Fellow’s project, some days may include meetings with other staff and/or with outside stakeholders. Regarding formal meeting requirements, initially the Fellow would meet with the mentors weekly to discuss and review plans, project(s)/activities status, steps for progression, etc.; gradually, as the Fellow gained more confidence and experience and demonstrated steady progress in his/her activities, the number of formal meetings with the mentors would be expected to decrease. Other formal meetings the Fellow would be expected to attend include the weekly meetings of the Field Investigators and quarterly DOCD meetings.
## Potential Projects

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<tr>
<th>Surveillance Activity</th>
<th>Surveillance of Travelers for COVID-19 and Other Respiratory Pathogens</th>
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DOCD has had an influenza surveillance program in place at the Daniel K. Inouye International airport (HNL) since 2005. The program was established to improve the state’s ability to rapidly detect, characterize, and respond to the threat of pandemic influenza. With the current pandemic of COVID-19 and the risk of importation of the disease by travelers to Hawaii, surveillance at HNL has been expanded to address this risk.

The CSTE fellow would use data collected through the traveler screening and surveillance programs to develop a detailed descriptive epidemiology of the travelers identified through these systems in terms of demographics, travel history, pathogens identified, and other characteristics. The results of this work would be used to help guide and focus our traveler surveillance efforts here in Hawaii.

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<tr>
<th>Surveillance Evaluation</th>
<th>Evaluation of the Sentinel Surveillance System</th>
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As part of the response to the current pandemic, a COVID-19 sentinel surveillance program was established using the framework of the already existing influenza surveillance program. The goal of the sentinel surveillance program is to detect community spread of the disease among individuals who have mild to moderate febrile respiratory illness, who otherwise may go undetected. The CSTE fellow, working with his/her mentors, will evaluate the effectiveness of this system in multiple areas, including its ability to measure the burden of disease on the population, its representativeness in terms of populations covered, and its ability to detect community spread and/or clusters of cases. He/she will also evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the system and identify potential improvements to increase its accuracy and effectiveness.

The data and findings from such an evaluation would be helpful in potentially identifying issues we may need to address to improve our surveillance and better safeguard the public’s health.

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<tr>
<th>Major Project</th>
<th>Description and Analysis of Occupational Health Risks and Other Potential Risk Factors of COVID-19</th>
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As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, an important aspect of the response is to more fully understand the risk factors of the disease. By understanding who is at higher risk of exposure and whom the disease affects more severely, the public health response can be focused more efficiently, and more effective mitigation efforts may be identified and implemented.

Using data collected during the course of investigations, the CSTE fellow will describe and analyze various factors that may contribute to increased risk for, and affect the transmission of, the disease throughout the population. One of the primary areas of focus for the fellow will be on occupational data of cases. The fellow will describe the distribution of occupations among cases, perform analysis to identify potential high risk occupations, and possibly conduct further data collection through surveys, interviews, or other methods to obtain more detailed and complete data on our population.
of cases. Other areas that the fellow may focus on include the description and analysis of the differences between travel-associated and community spread cases, pediatric and adult cases, and hospitalized and non-hospitalized cases.

The work the fellow will do in these areas will help increase our knowledge of how COVID-19 affects our population, and will be used to help guide and focus our public health response and prevention efforts.

### Preparedness Role

The CSTE fellow would be encouraged to participate in public health preparedness and response related activities within the division (e.g., Stop Flu at School [mass vaccination], discussions and planning regarding quarantine and isolation, issues related to high consequence emerging infectious diseases) as well as with outside stakeholders. During the current COVID-19 pandemic, assistance is required from everyone division- and even department-wide. At critical times such as these, the CSTE fellow is expected to lend his/her full support to the division.

### Additional Activities

The projects listed above are just some of the opportunities available to a CSTE fellow. As the COVID-19 pandemic is a rapidly changing and evolving situation, there are a plethora of projects available to the fellow. We are willing and able to tailor the projects to meet the fellow’s areas of interest and desired goals of their fellowship. Additionally, there is also the possibility of collaboration with other partners outside of DOCD, including the Centers for Disease Control's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine office, located at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport.

### Mentors

| **Primary** | Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP  
| State Epidemiologist; Chief, Disease Outbreak Control Division (DOCD) |
| **Secondary** | David Johnston, MPH  
| Epidemiologist, Disease Outbreak Control Division (DOCD) |