

Role of Health Information Technology in Nationwide Outbreaks

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CDC's Role in Outbreak Investigation

- **During a multi-state disease outbreak, CDC serves as lead coordinator between public health partners to detect the outbreak, define its size and extent, and to identify the source. CDC assists in the specific areas of:**
 - Disease Surveillance
 - Outbreak Response Teams
 - Laboratory Testing
 - Informing and Protecting the Public
- **In the last two years, CDC has sent scientists and doctors out more than 750 times to respond to health threats.**
- **In collaboration with FDA, EPA, VA, and other Federal partners**

Recent Response Examples

- **Fungal Meningitis**
 - Public health access to Electronic Health Records
- **Ebola**
 - Using clinical guidelines to support screening and possible case identification
 - Isolation and infection control
 - Contact tracing
- **Chikungunya virus**
 - New in US
 - Limited laboratory testing capacity

HIT Opportunities

- **Help identify synergies between public health IT and developing population health management IT in clinical care**
- **Foster sharing of IT infrastructure among state and local partners to facilitate better connection with clinical care**
- **Further engage public health in relevant standards development activities**
- **Advance the development of public health guidance in electronic formats that can be used to support clinical decision making**



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