

WISCONSIN VECTORBORNE TEAM



Vectorborne diseases are illnesses that are spread in Wisconsin by vectors, including mosquitoes and ticks. These vectors can carry pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, or parasites. Vectorborne diseases constitute a significant number of illnesses in Wisconsin each year and must be reported for surveillance purposes. The Wisconsin Vectorborne Team members are paid through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity program to help manage, classify, and disseminate public health surveillance data.



WHO is on the team and who can we help?

- The team is made up of students from public health, entomology, and other related graduate and undergraduate programs at University of Wisconsin-Madison, who work at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health (DPH).
- Activities are coordinated by vectorborne disease epidemiologists and they work during business hours on weekdays. Team members work flexible schedules averaging 10-20 hours per week.
- The team supports vectorborne disease surveillance at the state level, and assists Wisconsin's local and tribal health departments with case classification.



WHAT do we do?

- Manage vectorborne disease data in the state public health surveillance database.
- Classify vectorborne disease cases based on the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and CDC case definitions.
- Assist in creation of educational materials used to disseminate disease prevention messages and public health surveillance data to stakeholders and the general public.
- Provide support for emerging vectorborne disease outbreak investigations and other focused surveillance projects.
- Assemble epidemiological summaries such as maps, graphs, and tables to help characterize vectorborne disease in Wisconsin residents.
- Collaborate with the UW-Madison Medical Entomology Laboratory to conduct vector surveillance projects.



WHY does Wisconsin have a Vectorborne Team?

- Wisconsin receives a very high volume of vectorborne disease case reports, especially for Lyme disease. These data must be managed and classified accordingly.
- To provide hands-on job training for students interested in public health and communicable disease surveillance.

QUESTIONS? INTERESTED IN JOINING THE VECTORBORNE TEAM?

Please contact Ryan Wozniak (ryan.wozniak@wi.gov), Vectorborne Program Director.

