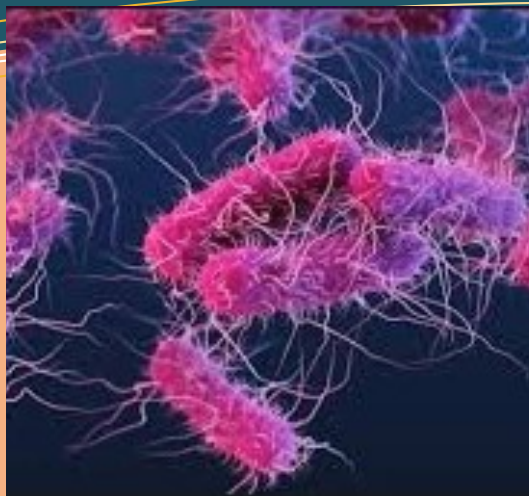


315 Washington Street
Oakland, CA 94607

510.451.1344

www.ceip.us



This issue:

- Avian Influenza
- Epidemiology of Extraintestinal Invasive *E. coli*
- Where Are They Now
- New Staff
- CEIP Staff Holiday Photos!

Avian Influenza Testing Recommendations

On January 16, 2025, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a Health Advisory to clinicians and laboratories due to sporadic human infections with avian influenza A(H5N1) viruses amid high levels of seasonal influenza activity. CDC recommended accelerated subtyping of influenza A-positive specimens from hospitalized patients, particularly those in ICUs, as part of a comprehensive strategy to identify human infections with avian influenza A(H5N1).¹

On February 6, 2025, the California Department of Public Health released a Health Advisory with guidance for enhanced surveillance for humans with avian influenza A(H5N1) infections.² These recommendations detailed how healthcare providers should facilitate influenza A subtype testing for:

- Hospitalized patients who are severely ill with influenza A infections, particularly those in intensive care units (ICUs).
- Healthcare providers should report any suspected case of influenza A(H5N1) infection or any influenza A specimen for which subtyping is negative* to the patient's local public health department.

The California Emerging Infections Program [FluSurv-NET staff](#) have been working closely with local and state public health departments and laboratories to assist with local public health strategies to increase Influenza A subtyping within the 3-county catchment area. Thank you to all who have assisted with these important surveillance activities to identify human infections.

Contributed by Pam Daily Kirley

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/han/2025/han00520.html>

2. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/CAHAN/Subtyping-of-Influenza-A-in-Hospitalized-Patients.aspx>



Thank you!

Dr. Duc Vugia, one of CEIP's founding directors, will be retiring from the California Department of Public Health in Spring of 2025. See page 5 for a tribute.



Summary of a 3 Month Pilot study: Epidemiology of Extraintestinal Invasive *Escherichia coli* Infections in 9 U.S. Communities, 2023

CEIP participated in a three-month pilot project conducting surveillance for extraintestinal invasive *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) infections. Heather Grome, et al, presented a poster of the results of the pilot at ID Week 2024 in Los Angeles, CA.¹ *E. coli* is the leading gram-negative bacterium causing urinary tract and invasive infections, including bloodstream and other sterile site infections. These infections are a major global cause of sepsis, hospitalization, and death. This pilot project was the first routine surveillance for conducted in the United States.

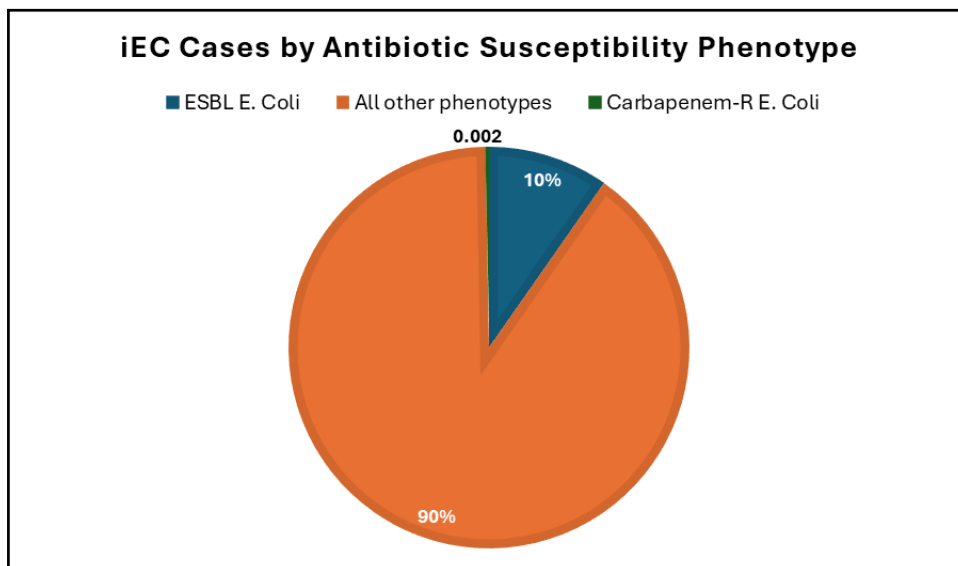
CEIP and eight other Emerging Infections Programs participated in the pilot from June to August 2023, covering a population of more than 7.3 million. Incident invasive *E. coli* (iEC) cases were defined as the first *E. coli* isolation in 30 days from a sterile site in a resident of surveillance areas.

Among 1,345 iEC cases, *E. coli* was isolated from blood cultures in 1,223 (90.9%) . The annual incidence rate was 74.5/100,000 and higher in those ≥ 60 years (228.5) vs < 60 years (30.4). Urinary tract infections (UTI) were associated with 56.7% of cases, with 14.3% involving recurrent UTIs, 15.8% of which were linked to urinary catheters. Among 1,160 hospitalized cases, the median hospital stay was 5 days, and 8.9% died. Antibiotic resistance included 28.8% fluoroquinolone-resistant, 13.8% extended-spectrum β -lactamase-producing, and 0.2% carbapenem-resistant strains.

The results of this pilot showed that iEC infections impose a significant burden on the health of the population, with over half of identified cases linked to UTIs and frequent hospitalizations.

In January 2024, CEIP began surveillance for iEC in Alameda County. Ongoing surveillance is essential to track trends, guide vaccine development, and inform prevention strategies.

Figure 1. CA incident iEC cases (N=350/1345): Percent of incident invasive *E. coli* cases by antibiotic susceptibility phenotype

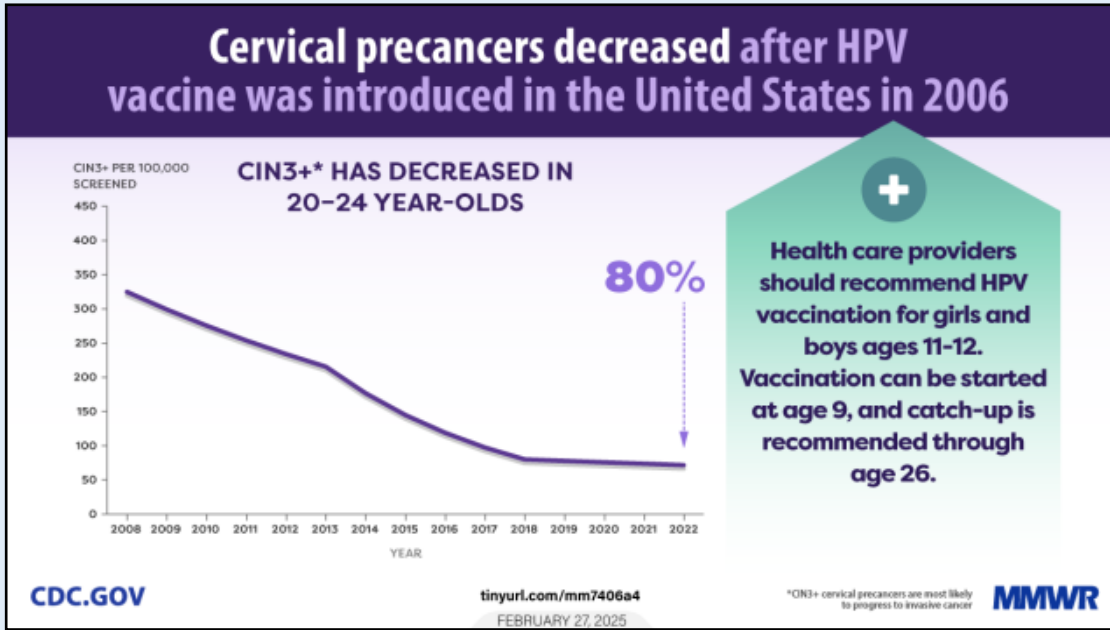


Contributed by Jane Lee

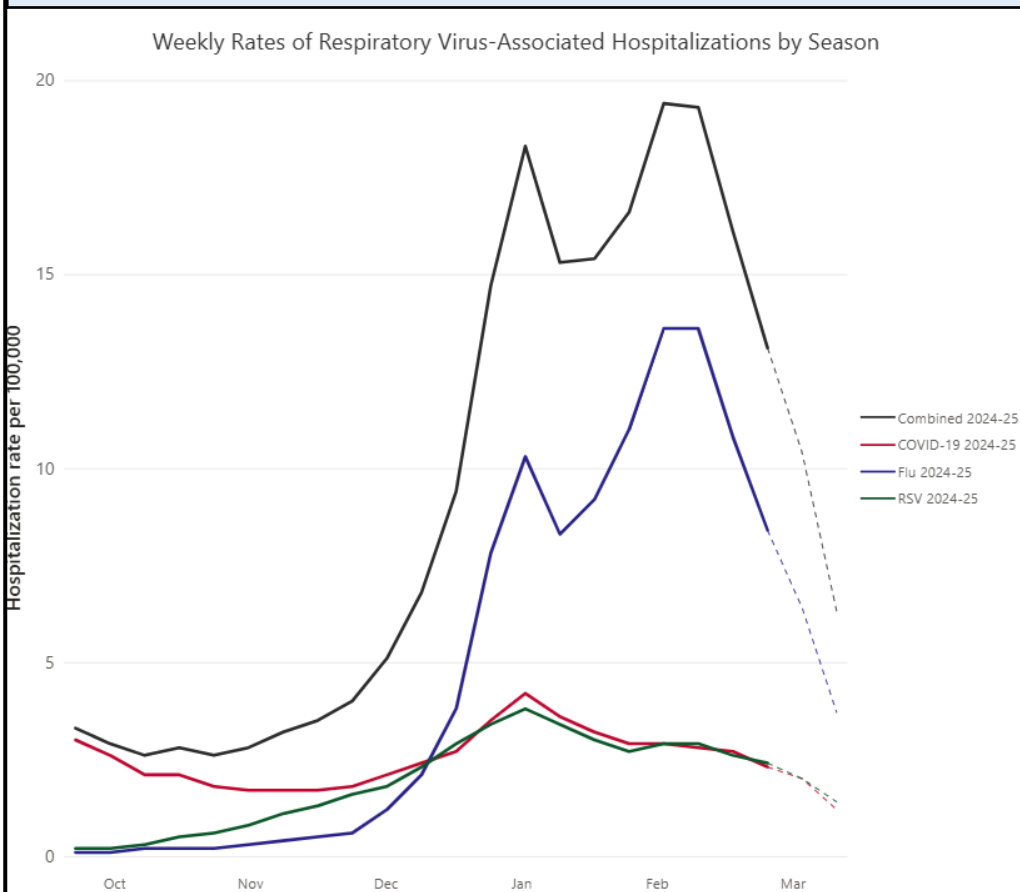
1. P-293: Epidemiology of Extraintestinal Invasive *Escherichia coli* Infections in 9 U.S. Communities, 2023. Gnome, et al. ID Week 2024, Los Angeles, CA.

Public Health Updates

This just in! Check out this new report published in the *MMWR* - [Trends in Cervical Precancers Identified Through Population-Based Surveillance](#)



Weekly rates of respiratory virus-associated hospitalizations in Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco counties starting with the 2024-2025 season.



This graph was pulled from the [CDC's RESP-Net Interactive Dashboard](#)

CEIP 30th Anniversary

Where Are They Now?

Sarah Petnic — Surveillance Officer, 2017-2018

After earning an MPH in Infectious Diseases and Vaccinology from UC Berkeley, Sarah worked at CEIP from 2017 to 2018, specializing in Influenza surveillance. This experience helped pave the way to Sarah's current role as Infection Prevention Specialist at Providence Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa, where Sarah focused on patient and healthcare worker safety, particularly preventing surgical site infections (SSIs). By analyzing SSI trends in 2024, Sarah identified a gap in antimicrobial prophylaxis, leading to a quick resolution by updating the OR medication dispensing machines. Outside of work, Sarah is inspired by family, especially an almost-4-year-old son, and the world around them. Sarah is grateful to the CEIP team for their vital work, emphasizing that data drives real change.



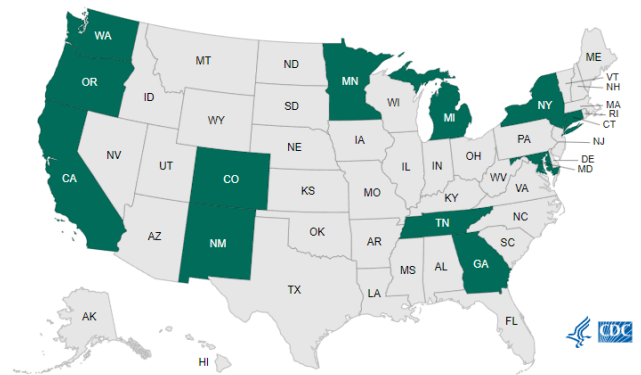
Tara Scheuer — Research Assistant & Surveillance Officer, 2013-2019



After completing Peace Corps service in Nicaragua in 2013, specializing in Health Education, Tara began her public health career at the California Emerging Infections Program (CEIP). Joining as a Bilingual Research Assistant, she contributed to major vaccine effectiveness studies, earning a promotion to Surveillance Officer. This role allowed her to grow as a leader and refine her skills in data analysis and epidemiology. While at CEIP, she pursued an MPH degree at UC Berkeley, seamlessly integrating her academic and professional work. Her MPH practicum focused on racial disparities in infant pertussis rates, further advancing their expertise. After six years at CEIP, she joined Solano County as an Epidemiologist and currently serves as Bureau Chief of the Health Promotion & Community Wellness Bureau. She blends data-driven strategies with community-focused approaches, uniting their background in health education and epidemiology to create meaningful public health initiatives. Outside of work, she cherishes time with her young daughter and enjoys connecting with family and friends. Her career reflects a dedication to improving community wellness through both analytical and relational efforts.

Did you know that there are Emerging Infections Programs in 11 other states?

<https://www.cdc.gov/emerging-infections-program/php/eip-sites/index.html>



New Staff Introductions

David Monticalvo— Health Program Manager



David brings over fifteen years of operations experience in public health and the nonprofit sector to his role at CEIP. Most recently, he served as the Chief Operating Officer at a nonprofit in San Francisco. His career also includes roles at prominent organizations such as UCSF and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida. He began his journey as a social worker, supporting adults with mental health disorders. He holds his MPH from the University of Florida and a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) from Southeastern University.

Raised in Jacksonville, Florida, he relocated to the Bay Area in 2020 to be closer to family. Outside of work, he enjoys reading and practicing meditation. He and his husband recently moved from San Francisco to Oakland and welcome recommendations to explore their new community.

Amanda van Rest—CalREDIE Business Analyst

Amanda earned her master's in public health with a focus on epidemiology and biostatistics from the University of Southern California in 2020, just in time to join Los Angeles County's Department of Public Health to support COVID-19 response efforts. While at LACDPH, Amanda managed a public-facing dashboard and led a published study on nursing home outbreaks. Amanda has also contributed to data management and analysis projects at Stanford University and served as an epidemiologist for the CDC Foundation. She's excited to contribute to the important projects at CEIP!



Dr. Duc Vugia Retirement | Congratulations!

Dr. Duc Vugia's scientific contributions, leadership and unwavering support of CEIP over many years are deeply appreciated and have made a lasting impact on the success of the program. After receiving his MD and MPH degrees, he trained in internal medicine and infectious diseases before embarking on his public health career, starting with the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service in 1990 and then continuing with the California Department of Public Health in 1994. Dr. Vugia, in partnership with Dr. Art Reingold, initiated the CEIP in 1994 and Dr. Vugia has been involved with various aspects of CEIP, primarily the FoodNet and CJD surveillance projects, since that time. At CDPH, Vugia has served as Chief of the Infectious Diseases Branch since 1995, where he worked with local, state and federal partners to address many public health issues related to foodborne and waterborne diseases and outbreaks, zoonotic and vector-borne diseases and emerging infectious diseases. We at CEIP are enormously grateful to Dr. Vugia for all his years of service to CEIP. We congratulate him on a remarkable career in public health and wish him the very best in his retirement.

Let's have a look at staff's holiday photos



Anita's child Durotimi



David's dog Jake



Cristina's cat Greyson



Randy's dog Benji



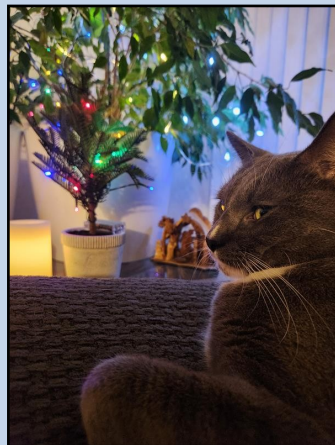
Joelle's family



Irma's dog Charlie



Cristina's cat Odi



Sophia's cat Cloud



Panes con pollo by
Sophia's family



The California Emerging Infections Program (CEIP), a program of Heluna Health, is a joint project of the California Department of Public Health, U.C. Berkeley School of Public Health, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in collaboration with the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, San Francisco Department of Public Health, Contra Costa County Health Services Department, and the City of Berkeley Health and Human Services Department.

Cover Image



Credit: CDC

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<https://ceip.us/about/jobs/>

Directors

Arthur Reingold, MD

Professor of Epidemiology, School of Public Health,
University of California at Berkeley

James Watt, MD, MPH

Acting Deputy Director and Deputy State Epidemiologist
Center for Infectious Diseases
California Department of Public Health

Subject Matter Experts

Shua Chai, MD, MPH

Science and Policy Advisor, Division of Communicable Disease Control
California Department of Public Health

Joseph Lewnard, PhD

Associate Professor, Epidemiology School of Public Health,
University of California at Berkeley

Associate Director

Joelle Nadle, MPH

Health Program Manager

David Monticalvo, MPH

Informatics Supervisor

Garrett Jenkins, PhD

Viral Respiratory Diseases Project Manager

Pamala Daily Kirley, MT, MPH

Data Modernization Initiative Manager

Dani Fujino, MPH

Project Coordinators

Susan Brooks, MPH

Erin Parker, MPH

Maria Rosales

Kathryn Wymore, MPH

Erin Whitney, MPH

Anita Ogayemi-Agoh, MPH

Administrative Coordinator

Annette Sanchez

Project Operations Officer

Kimberly Gonzalez-Barrera, MPH

Surveillance Officers

Bianca Bruzzone, MPH

Cristina Curran, MPH

Orsolya Domiczi

Brenna Hall, MPH

Jane Lee, MPH

Rebecca Longson, MPH

Monica Napoles

Utsav Pokharel, MD, MBA, MPH

Tim Akito Rei, MS

Jeremy Roland, MPH

Lena Tayo, MPH

Eugenio Lopez

Paola Santos, MPH

CaREDIE Business Analyst

Amanda van Rest, MPH

Clinical Informatics Specialist

Chaman Kaur, MS, MBA

Epidemiologists

Deborah Adeyemi, MPH

MJ Mocarski, MPH

Alice Yang, MPH

Microbiologist

Herschel Kirk

Nicole Chin

Research Assistants

Mharidhen Chea

Disha Palimar

Justin Ho

Allizah Lansang

Madeline Anderson

Vanessa Anguiano

Irma Parada

Sophia Escobar

Randy Parada