National Collaborating Centres
for Public Health

Centres de collaboration nationale
en santé publique

Influence-in-action: National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases

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Infectious disease prevention and control is a cornerstone of public health, reflecting its origins in epidemic control. The National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCCID) is a hub of national and international expertise in infectious disease.

NCCID is closely connected both to frontline public health and primary care systems, where infectious diseases break out, are detected and treated, and to leading experts and sources of evidence.

NCCID is a key partner in Canada's infectious disease prevention and control infrastructure. It collaborates with all parts of the surveillance, investigation and control system, including front-line clinicians and programmers, provincial and territorial public health organizations, national and inter-provincial committees, and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

NCCID's current project streams

- HIV and STBBIs (Sexually Transmitted and Blood-borne Infections)
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Tuberculosis
- Notifiable Diseases Database
- Influenza and influenza-like illness

KEY STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES

1. NCCID works across disciplines, sectors and jurisdictions

   - Online communities advance practice for highly-specialized public health practitioners who are spread across jurisdictions with few opportunities to interact in person; including for example, the **LinkedIn discussion group** on mathematical modelling (mod4PH).

   - The **National Notifiable Diseases Database** maps and tracks how infectious disease surveillance and control occurs across Canada. It helps provincial and local public health organizations better interpret their own surveillance information.

2. NCCID connects decision-makers and practitioners with knowledge and with each other

   Emerging **infectious diseases such as Zika virus** As disease outbreaks develop, major problems can emerge quickly. NCCID responds rapidly with **Disease Briefs and Quick Links**, sharing coordinated knowledge and evidence from experts and partners.

   Persistent **infectious diseases such as influenza** To help keep the public health workforce current on effective strategies and move collective debate forward, NCCID develops and shares reviews of key issues, such as the importance of equity in discussions of **burden of diseases**.

   Evolving **infectious diseases such as STIs and TB** NCCID organizes and brokers information through **publications**, **workshops, webinars** and **podcasts**, such as how public health units in various settings cope with overwhelming

   Chlamydia case volumes and innovative approaches to tuberculosis and oral health for **refugees**.
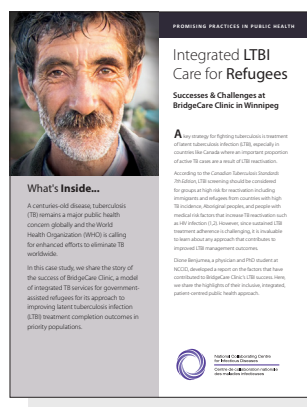
CASE STORY

Notifiable Diseases Database - consultation and collaboration for an essential public health resource

The <u>Notifiable Diseases Database</u> (NDDB) is a Canada-wide, searchable database of case definitions and reporting requirements for 244 communicable diseases in the provinces and territories and by the federal government.

Canada has international surveillance obligations for a set of diseases. However, since every province and territory define its own list of notifiable diseases, including the criteria for defining reportable cases, there is considerable variation across jurisdictions. Since disease lists, case definitions and reporting requirements can change, the database is regularly updated.

Creation of the database developed stronger networks and encouraged overdue updates

- Led by the NCCID, this initiative involved consultations with public health stakeholders in every province and territory and with federal public health staff. While participating in the building of this database, several jurisdictions were spurred to proceed with overdue updates.

Rapid access to side-by-side comparisons, by jurisdiction or disease

For each province and territory, the database includes:

- *which* diseases must be reported, and how each disease is defined;
- *who* must report them (e.g., doctor, nurse, laboratory technician, school principal);
- *where* diseases must be reported (Ministry of Health, medical officer of health, Public Health Agency of Canada, World Health Organization); and
- *when* diseases must be reported (immediately, within 24-hours).

Diseases don't respect borders

Since communicable diseases travel quickly across borders, provinces and territories need to be able to compare their reporting information to inform their decisions.

"As we consulted across jurisdictions, shared information, and incorporated updates, we noticed that the definitions of cases became more consistent as common terminology was being used… several jurisdictions changed and evolved their list of notifiable diseases as a result of participating in building this database."

NCCID PROJECT MANAGER

User-friendly search options

- Users can search by transmission type and for vaccine-preventable diseases. The database also includes the most recent source of case definitions and notes the date this information was last updated.