



GLOBAL HEALTH

In today's highly mobile and interconnected world, new and deadly germs threaten everyone. CDC protects Americans by rapidly detecting and containing new health threats anywhere in the world before they can come to the U.S. We support strong, effective public health systems, and we train health professionals to identify outbreaks in their own countries to prevent threats from crossing borders. We also work to make sure people have access to safe water and sanitation around the world, which is a critical step in preventing disease and stopping other health threats.



1,700 DEPLOYED

CDC has 1,700 staff in more than 60 countries, in addition to those deployed to fight Ebola.



80%

About 80% of the world's people now live in polio-free areas. Efforts are ongoing to eliminate polio in the last few countries.



CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service officer Allison Arwday helped investigate a mysterious outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in Saudi Arabia.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Responded to more than 400 global disease outbreaks through CDC's Global Disease Detection (GDD) Centers in the past 2 years.
- Tracked 14 diseases and syndromes through GDD Centers, including respiratory syncytial virus, adenovirus, pneumococcus, febrile illness of unknown origins, influenza-like illness, and tuberculosis.
- Reduced lymphatic filariasis in Haiti by 90%, getting close to the goal of eliminating the disease.
- Completed the first study showing that insecticide-treated bed nets provide significant protection against malaria even when mosquitoes have moderate resistance to insecticides.
- Surged global efforts to eradicate polio that resulted in only three countries still having the disease. CDC and its partners sent staff and increased program efforts in Nigeria, which may now be polio-free.



126 CASES

Helped reduce cases of Guinea worm in the world to 126 cases in 2014—a record low.



15.6 MILLION LIVES SAVED

Measles vaccines saved 15.6 million lives during 2000–2013.

TRACKING DOWN A NEW KILLER—MERS

In spring 2014, CDC responded to a mysterious outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in Saudi Arabia. MERS is a potentially deadly new virus that attacks the respiratory system. The MERS cases have been linked to the Arabian Peninsula in the Middle East.

Allison Arwday, a CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service officer, was deployed at the request of the Saudi Ministry of Health to help investigate a cluster of MERS cases. Saudi health officials had access to a standard form of molecular testing, which can identify if someone has an active MERS infection. But Allison also brought serology testing, developed by CDC, to detect infection in someone who is not showing symptoms.

Allison examined a remote area where no cases had ever been reported—including a family with several infected members. Most cases seemed to be linked to hospitals. Allison surveyed the families, examined risk factors, and conducted both standard molecular and serology tests. The results were sent back to CDC and revealed several family members had negative standard molecular readings but had positive serology tests. The serology results helped identify people who did not know they were infected. The investigations also revealed that people who lived in close quarters with sick relatives got sick, but people who just visited their sick relatives did not—suggesting that MERS spreads through more than casual contact.

After Allison's investigation, CDC provided serology testing training to Saudi health officials. Today, Saudi Arabia is using serology testing to better identify and stop the spread of MERS.