



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

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Patrick J. McConnon, M.P.H.
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 303
Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4015

Dear Mr. McConnon:

Thank you for your letter regarding position statement 07-EC-03 titled "Support and Reinstatement of Funding for CDC's Outbreak Management System (OMS)."

We greatly appreciate the support that the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) consistently contributes to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our programs. Your organization has always provided important leadership and advice on practical methods and best practices for disease surveillance and control.

It is one of our imperatives to provide robust data management software to meet the demands of those confronting unexpected adverse events in public health, and I appreciate your confidence that our Outbreak Management System (OMS) has the potential to do this. Our staff has been diligently working to assess OMS. The CDC Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response (COTPER) has been collaborating with the Division of Integrated Surveillance Systems and Services (DISSS) at the National Center for Public Health Informatics in our Coordinating Office for Health Information and Service, as well as others at CDC to come up with a feasible plan to provide a product that will meet the needs of public health practitioners.

Our consensus has been to propose three interdependent projects to compete for COTPER funding for fiscal year 2008. The realization of these projects should address the concerns listed on your position statement. The projects cover three areas: transition planning, enterprise architecture evaluation, and development of OMS version 2. The transition planning project will allow CDC, in collaboration with CSTE, to engage in discussions about transitioning governance of the OMS application over a three-year period. The strategy may include such options as transitioning the application to a third party. The enterprise architecture evaluation project is to evaluate the business process and establish a strategy for developing interoperability between outbreak management tools. The third project addresses further development of OMS version 2. Over a three-year period, CDC, CSTE, and the OMS Working Group will thoughtfully prioritize user requirements, including messaging, as well as interoperability with other systems and different platforms.

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As a very important partner, we look forward to continuing our work with CSTE in the years to come, and I would greatly enjoy the opportunity to engage in discussions about ways to enhance our partnership and collaboration in the development of OMS. Please contact Dr. Scott McNabb, Director of CDC's DISSS, at (404) 498-6427 or e-mail SMcNabb@cdc.gov if you have any further questions.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of OMS.

Sincerely,


Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director