## Kathryn A. Turner, PhD MPH Deputy State Epidemiologist

Chief, Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention Division of Public Health Idaho Department of Health and Welfare



Dr. Turner has twenty years of experience in state level public health in the areas of biostatistics, epidemiology, disease surveillance, and public health informatics. Dr. Turner is Idaho's Deputy State Epidemiologist and oversees the Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention, including programs focused on epidemiology, immunization, healthcare associated infections, food safety, communicable disease surveillance, and refugee health. Dr. Turner is the current Secretary/ Treasurer of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and previously served as the Surveillance and Informatics Steering Committee Chair from 2015-2018. During her term, she focused on advancing public health surveillance and informatics practice nationwide, including the implementation of electronic case reporting for reportable conditions.

Since 2015, Dr. Turner has served as the CSTE liaison to the Governance Body of the Digital Bridge, a unique initiative that creates a forum for

health care experts, public health professionals, and industry partners to discuss the challenges of information sharing and collaborate on ideas and solutions for a nationally consistent and sustainable approach to using electronic health data.

Serving as a public health official of a small public health agency has provided Dr. Turner the opportunity to have varied and valuable experience managing public health programs, mentoring public health practitioners, and driving innovation in public health practice. She has held leadership roles within the agency in the areas of communicable disease and immunization legislation and policy in addition to providing expertise in informatics and data management to programs throughout the agency. Dr. Turner's publications focus on topics related to surveillance and informatics capacity in state public health agencies and using surveillance data to inform public health practice and improve population health.

Prior to becoming Idaho's Deputy State Epidemiologist, Dr. Turner served as the Idaho State Epidemiology Program Manager and developed Idaho's communicable disease informatics and surveillance program. She earned her undergraduate degree in Economics and Mathematics from Boise State University and received her MPH and PhD in Public Health Epidemiology from Walden University.