

Theresa Sokol, MPH
State Epidemiologist, Program Director, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section
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Theresa Sokol has worked for the Louisiana Department of Health for more than 20 years and is a member of the Executive Board of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. She currently serves as the State Epidemiologist and Program Director for the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section of the Louisiana Office of Public Health. In this capacity, she provides expert epidemiologic, scientific, and technical leadership for the critical public health personnel, systems, and processes that detect and control infectious diseases, hazardous environmental exposures, bioterrorism threats, and other public health emergencies. Ms. Sokol is responsible for designing, conducting, and overseeing complex epidemiologic investigations and advanced professional analytical work, including interpretation and translation for decision-making and public dissemination. She oversees the development of state policies and associated procedures guiding the investigation and identification of suspected infectious disease cases, outbreaks, emerging infections, and bioterrorism events, as well as instituting rapid disease control measures. Ms. Sokol oversees surveillance for more than 80 infectious diseases, including food and water-borne diseases, vector-borne diseases, viral respiratory illnesses, vaccine preventable diseases, and healthcare associated infections. She has directed the investigation of numerous large outbreaks in Louisiana, including hepatitis A, histoplasmosis, mumps, mpox, West Nile, and norovirus and has led the state's epidemiologic response to high-consequence infectious diseases such as Zika, Welder's Anthrax, Ebola, Oropouche, bird flu, and measles.