

GUIDELINES FOR FOODBORNE DISEASE OUTBREAK RESPONSE



OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION

Population at risk

Age Group	Male	Female
0-14	15%	15%
15-24	15%	15%
25-34	15%	15%
35-44	15%	15%
45-54	15%	15%
55-64	15%	15%
65-74	15%	15%
75+	15%	15%

Health Status

Age Group	Healthy	At Risk	Infected	Recovered
0-14	5	2.5	2.5	2
15-24	5	2.5	2.5	2
25-34	5	2.5	2.5	2
35-44	5	2.5	2.5	2
45-54	5	2.5	2.5	2
55-64	5	2.5	2.5	2
65-74	5	2.5	2.5	2
75+	5	2.5	2.5	2

Prevalence and Incidence

Week	Prevalence	Incidence
Week 1	1.00	0.10
Week 2	0.87	0.07
Week 3	0.74	0.15
Week 4	0.61	0.20
Week 5	0.48	0.15
Week 6	0.35	0.10
Week 7	0.22	0.11



Table of Contents

FOREWARD	5
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	6
CHAPTER 1 The Evolving Challenge of Foodborne Outbreak Response ..	15
1.0 Introduction	16
1.1 The Burden of Foodborne Illness in the United States.	16
1.2 Growing Complexity of the Food Supply	18
1.3 Enhanced U.S. Foodborne Illness Surveillance Systems	21
1.4 Foodborne Outbreak Response and Systems Change	24
CHAPTER 2 Legal Preparedness for the Surveillance and Control of	
Foodborne Illness Outbreaks	27
2.0 Introduction	28
2.1 Public Health Legal Preparedness	28
2.2 Legal Framework for Surveillance and Disease Reporting ..	31
2.3 Protection of Confidentiality and Authority to	
Access Records	34
2.4 Legal Framework to Prevent or Mitigate Foodborne	
Illness Outbreaks	36
2.5 Evolving Legal Issues	40
2.6 Public Health Investigations as the Basis for Further Action ..	41
2.7 CIFOR Legal Preparedness Resources	42

Table of Contents

CHAPTER 3 Planning and Preparation: Building Teams	47
3.0 Introduction.	48
3.1 Roles	48
3.2 Outbreak Investigation and Control Team	56
3.3 Planning to Rapidly Expand and Contract Investigation and Control Team Structure	58
3.4 Response Resources.	59
3.5 Communication Plans	61
3.6 Planning for Recovery and Follow-Up	63
CHAPTER 4 Foodborne Illness Surveillance and Outbreak Detection	67
4.0 Introduction.	68
4.1 Pathogen-Specific Surveillance	70
4.2 Complaint Systems	77
4.3 Syndromic Surveillance.	84
CHAPTER 5 Cluster and Outbreak Investigation	87
5.0 Introduction.	88
5.1 Outbreak Investigation Initiation	96
5.2 Define and Find Cases.	98
5.3 Generate Hypotheses about Likely Sources	100
5.4 Test Hypotheses.	103
5.5 Evaluate Evidence to Solve Point of Contamination and Source of the Food	111
5.6 Implement Control Measures, Investigation Close-Out, and Reporting	113

Table of Contents

CHAPTER 6 Control Measures and Prevention	115
6.0 Introduction	116
6.1 Information-Based Decision Making	116
6.2 Communications With the Public	118
6.3 Communications With Response Partners and Stakeholders	120
6.4 Control Measures	121
6.5 Outbreaks Involving Commercially Distributed Foods	126
6.6 Outbreak Wrap-up Activities	130
CHAPTER 7 Special Considerations for Multijurisdictional Outbreaks	137
7.0 Introduction	138
7.1 Categories and Frequency of Multijurisdictional Outbreaks	138
7.2 Multijurisdictional Outbreak Detection	140
7.3 Identifying and Investigating Sub-Clusters	142
7.4 Coordination of Multijurisdictional Investigations	143
7.5 Multijurisdictional Outbreak Investigation After-Action Reports and Reporting to NORS	146
CHAPTER 8 Performance Metrics for Foodborne Illness Programs	147
8.0 Introduction	148
8.1 Purpose and Intended Use	148
8.2 Performance Metrics	150



Foreword

Foodborne diseases and outbreaks remain a substantial cause of preventable morbidity and mortality in the United States and worldwide. It is estimated that over 9 million cases of foodborne illness occur in the United States each year. Of these, only a small fraction are associated with recognized outbreaks. It is widely believed, however, that outbreaks are substantially under-recognized and under-reported, and as our ability to detect and investigate clusters of illness improves, the proportion that are due to outbreaks or an identified source will inevitably increase. This is of great importance, as outbreaks provide an opportunity to identify food safety practices, environmental and other contributing factors, clarify attribution of illness to specific commodities, and improve mitigation and prevention of future events.

The Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Investigations (CIFOR) is a multidisciplinary collaboration of national associations and federal agencies working together since 2006 to improve methods to detect, investigate, control and prevent foodborne disease outbreaks. Council members represent large agencies and groups with substantial expertise in epidemiology, environmental health, public health laboratory activities and food regulation at the local, state and federal levels. While a variety of discipline-specific materials are available, these Guidelines are intended to be a unique resource combining the perspectives of multiple disciplines and jurisdictional levels, emphasizing the importance of teamwork, coordination, and communication that are critical for rapid, efficient and successful outbreak response.

This 3rd Edition of these Guidelines provides important updates and a more streamlined format compared to earlier versions. It also addresses rapid and continuing changes in many aspects of food safety, including laboratory technology, data sharing, improved disease detection methods, increasing centralization of food production, and changing eating habits.

Previous editions of these Guidelines (along with a Toolkit and numerous other materials available from CIFOR at <http://www.cifor.us/>) have been widely used, and have provided a base for numerous training sessions of local and state agencies, and a model for development of jurisdiction-specific guidelines. They have also been used internationally (including a Chinese translation), and we hope that this edition is even more widely utilized.

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