

CIFOR Guidelines for Foodborne Disease Outbreak Response Published by National Food Safety Group

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CIFOR (Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response)

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The Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR) released its *Guidelines for Foodborne Disease Outbreak Response* today. The guidelines in this document are targeted to local, state and federal agencies and provide model practices used in foodborne disease outbreaks, including planning, detection, investigation, control and prevention. Local and state agencies vary in their approach to, experience with, and capacity to respond to foodborne disease outbreaks. The guidelines are intended to give all agencies a common foundation from which to work and to provide examples of the key activities that should occur during the response to outbreaks of foodborne disease. The guidelines were developed by a broad range of contributors from local, state and federal agencies with expertise in epidemiology, environmental health, laboratory science and communications. The document has gone through a public review and comment process.

“It is our hope that this document will be useful to investigators at all levels in improving outbreak investigations and serve as a platform for developing local and agency-specific policies and additional tools to support these critical public health activities,” said Dr. Tim Jones, Tennessee State Epidemiologist and Co-Chair of CIFOR.

The *Guidelines* document is not intended to replace current procedure manuals for responding to outbreaks. Instead, it is designed to be used as a reference document for comparison with existing procedures; to fill in gaps and update site-specific procedures; to provide models for new procedures where they do not exist; and to provide training to program staff. The document is available in electronic and hard-copy formats for state and local health departments. CIFOR is pleased to include a foreword by Dr. Michael Osterholm of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy and Michael Taylor, senior advisor to the FDA Commissioner, two well-respected food safety experts.

CIFOR is a multidisciplinary partnership organized to increase collaboration among food safety officials at all levels of government and in all areas of the country with the ultimate goal of reducing the burden of foodborne illness in the United States. CIFOR is composed of seven professional associations and three federal agencies. CIFOR is co-chaired by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). Other member organizations include the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO), the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL), the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

For more information contact Lauren Rosenberg at (770) 458-3811 or to access the *Guidelines* please visit www.cifor.us.

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