

Project in Brief

JUNE 2006

COUNCIL TO IMPROVE FOODBORNE OUTBREAK RESPONSE (CIFOR)

The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) are co-chairing the Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR) to develop guidelines, a repository for resources and tools, and performance measures for response to enteric illness.

Background

Foodborne and other enteric diseases affect millions of Americans each year. Many public health and other agencies are involved in efforts to mitigate the effects of these illnesses on public health and the economy. Outbreak identification and investigation is one of the key areas where multi-disciplinary public health agencies take the lead. The epidemiology of foodborne and diarrheal diseases is always changing—the result of changing diagnostic and subtyping



capabilities in laboratories, newly recognized and emerging pathogens, changes in food production, distribution, processing, and consumption patterns, demographic shifts, and many other factors. To successfully manage foodborne outbreak challenges, public health agencies must constantly adapt.

CIFOR was created to help develop model programs and processes that will facilitate the investigation and control of foodborne disease outbreaks. CIFOR's agenda includes improving the performance and coordination of relevant local, state, and federal public health agencies involved in epidemiology, environmental health, laboratory sciences, and regulatory affairs. Helpful tools may include the development of resource banks, model program guidelines, performance measures, and other standards that address foodborne illness surveillance, investigation (environmental, laboratory, and epidemiological), and control.

Project Description

The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) are co-chairing the Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR) to develop guidelines, a repository for resources and tools, and performance measures for response to enteric illness. CIFOR includes representatives from CSTE, NACCHO, CDC, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Expected Outcomes

CIFOR has initially targeted the following products:

- Program guidelines.
- An online clearinghouse of resources and tools for foodborne outbreak detection and response.
- Program performance evaluation indicators.
- Guidelines for responding to multi-jurisdictional outbreaks, integrating those that have already been created.

For more information, please visit www.naccho.org/topics/environmental/foodsafety/CIFOR, or contact:



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