

Session Abstracts

National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
71st Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition

Emerging Pathogens

Wednesday, June 20

1:00 – 1:50pm

Pandemic Planning: How to Implement a Pandemic Plan

Sara Wade, Public Health Educator, Oakland County Health Division, MI

The pandemic presentation will provide innovative ways to prepare for a pandemic at a personal and organizational level. This presentation is complete with facts about prevention and planning techniques, as well as best practice methods. Innovative ways of Using community collaboration will also be discussed.

2:00 – 2:50pm

Salmonellosis Outbreaks Associated with Tomatoes, 2002 to the Present: What Have We Learned?

CAPT Thomas A. Hill, RS, CFSP, EH Officer, USPHS, FDA, MD

The presenter will review Salmonellosis outbreaks associated with tomatoes from 2002 to the present including the epidemiology, traceback and environmental findings that may have caused or contributed to the outbreaks. The presentation will include initiatives by FDA and industry to address the problem, including research, guidance and safety action plans.

3:00 – 3:50pm

Strategies in the European Union to Control *Salmonella* in Poultry

Wolf Maier, Counselor, European Commission, Washington, DC

The European Commission in collaboration with the European Food Safety Authority publishes a yearly Community report on trends and sources of zoonotic disease. By far the most frequently reported zoonotic diseases in Europe are salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis.

For *Salmonella*, tightened control measures have now been adopted. Consistent with the food chain orientation of General European Food Law, the control programs are aimed primarily at the farms and the animal feed supply.

Salmonella control programs must be implemented for breeding flocks of chicken by 1 January 2007 and gradually expanded downwards over the animal production chain

towards laying hens and broilers until 2009. Similar programs are in preparation for turkeys and pigs.

In a pilot program, Sweden is developing control strategies for *Campylobacter*.

4:00 – 4:00pm

Norovirus Outbreaks on Cruise Ships – Steps Toward Prevention

CAPT George H. Vaughan, Jr., Epidemiologist, USPHS, CDC, GA

Between 1990 and 2000, the frequency of occurrence of gastrointestinal diseases on cruise ships decreased. Yet from 2001 to 2005, the frequency increased despite enhanced ship surveillance, inspection, and control measures. This increase has been attributed to a global increase in norovirus outbreaks. This presentation will focus on three recent norovirus outbreaks on cruise ships and the findings from surveys administered to passengers prior to disembarkation. Ill passengers were more likely to have prolonged hotel stays, less likely to believe in the efficacy of isolation, believe hand sanitizer was available, believe in or practice hand washing after restroom use, and less likely to believe the illness was serious.