

Epi-Ready Team Training

Foodborne Illness Response Strategies

Purpose

The goal of this training is for public health professionals and other involved personnel to rapidly identify and investigate a foodborne disease outbreak to allow for implementation of control measures to reduce the incidence of foodborne illness.

Overall Objectives

At the end of this training, the participant will be able to:

1. Describe the process of gathering data through passive surveillance.
2. List criteria for beginning an outbreak investigation.
3. Describe the purpose of an environmental assessment.
4. Use epidemiological study data to identify outbreak cause(s).
5. List four steps for submitting samples to a laboratory for testing.
6. Document and report the results of an outbreak investigation.
7. Evaluate the similarities between incidental and intentional foodborne illness. (e.g. Bioterrorism link)



Module 1: Passive Surveillance

At the end of this module, the participant will be able to:

1. Define “active” and “passive” surveillance systems.
2. Identify potential sources of surveillance data.
3. Name components of a successful surveillance system.
4. Identify reports used to document foodborne illness.
5. Refer complaints to appropriate individual and/or agency.
6. Describe the elements included on an ongoing log of foodborne illness complaints.
7. Define outbreak.
8. List important items of passive surveillance data to review.
9. List reasons whether or not to investigate complaints further.

Module 2: Outbreak Determination

At the end of this module, the participant will be able to:

1. List steps needed to prepare for an investigation.
2. Describe actions needed to verify the diagnosis.
3. Identify means for searching for additional cases.
4. List three phases of interviewing.
5. List steps for obtaining a case history.
6. Describe methods for overcoming barriers to interviewing.
7. Describe methods to ensure consistency of interview data.
8. Identify epidemiologic associations.
9. Determine if an outbreak has occurred.



Module 3: Environmental Assessment

At the end of this module, the participant will be able to:

1. Describe/distinguish the difference between environmental assessment (which would include interview and verification), plan review / HACCP inspection, and routine inspection.
2. Describe methods for overcoming barriers to on-site data gathering.
3. List the contributing factors typically associated with foodborne illness.
4. Describe the necessary steps to be covered in the environmental assessment (including steps in pre-visit planning and on-site data gathering).
5. Identify the importance of **C**ontamination, **S**urvival, and **P**roliferation (CSP).
6. Describe the importance of maintaining key information for the final report.

Module 4: Epidemiologic Investigation

At the end of this module, the participant will be able to:

1. Develop a case definition.
2. Draw an epidemic curve.
3. Develop an initial hypothesis.
4. List three types of study design and a method of statistical analysis.
5. Calculate measures of association.
6. Interpret significance of data.
7. Determine if hypotheses are confirmed or rejected.



Module 5: Laboratory Guidance

At the end of this module, the participant will be able to:

1. Determine criteria for testing
2. List key items found in a sample kit
3. Describe the collection of food samples
4. Name the reason for using a chain of custody document
5. Describe the collection of clinical specimens from cases

Module 6: Concluding Actions

At the end of this module, the participant will be able to:

1. Describe the need to inform the public.
2. Identify control strategies that need to be implemented.
3. Document the results of the outbreak investigation.
4. Describe means for using investigative data for prevention.
5. Explain the importance of an after action group review to improve coordination and action in the future.

