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# Centered on Food Safety

• Winter | • 2015

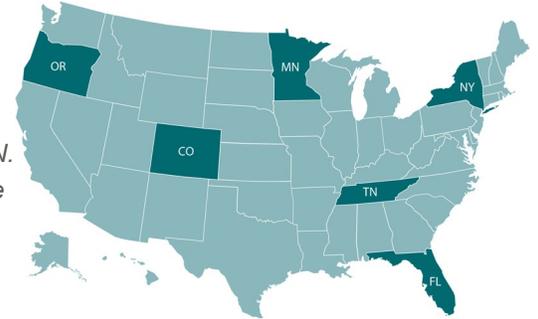


**Integrated Food Safety**  
Centers of Excellence

## HIGHLIGHTING THE PRODUCTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE INTEGRATED FOOD SAFETY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

CDC has designated six Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence comprised of state health departments and affiliated university partners in CO, FL, MN, NY, OR, & TN. The Centers work together to identify model practices in foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak response and to serve as resources to assist other state and local public health professionals in implementing these practices.

CoE tools and resources can be accessed at <http://www.CoEFoodSafetyTools.org>.



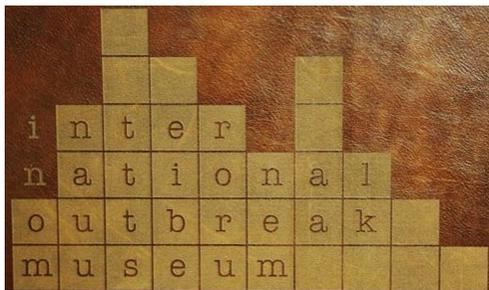
## International Outbreak Museum Now Online

*OR Center of Excellence introduces international outbreak museum website and case series*

The office of the late William E. ("Bill") Keene, PhD, MPH, is a treasure trove of outbreak history. From his early years investigating infectious disease outbreaks as a graduate student and then with the Oregon Public Health Division, Bill realized that outbreak investigations were memorable episodes that taught physicians, epidemiologists, food scientists, and the lay public about disease transmission. In many ways they formed the foundation of our collective knowledge of what's risky and what we'd do well to regulate.



Now the site of the International Outbreak Museum (IOM), Bill's office includes a fascinating array of exhibits associated with outbreaks, from a 1978 box of "Rely Tampons" associated with Toxic Shock Syndrome, to restaurant menus, cans of contaminated leather spray, bottles of MRSA-contaminated tattoo ink, packaging from numerous commercial food products recalled from the market, and replicas of pathogen-tainted foods such as artisanal raw milk cheese.



The IOM is part of The Northwest Center for Foodborne Outbreak Management, Epidemiology, and Surveillance (FOMES), which fosters foodborne/diarrheal disease surveillance and outbreak investigation. FOMES is working to bring the physical IOM exhibits to digital life. Our hope is that these fascinating exhibits can continue to edify audiences far and wide. If you've worked an interesting outbreak, please consider submitting information about the investigation. Should you find yourself in Portland, contact Hillary Booth or Paul Cieslak at 971-673-1111 to view the museum!

## New White Paper on Product Tracing

*MN Center of Excellence highlights release of White Paper on product tracing in epi investigations*

The Minnesota Center of Excellence would like to call attention to the recent release of the White Paper entitled "Product Tracing in Epidemiologic Investigations of Outbreaks due to Commercially Distributed Food Items – Utility, Application, and Considerations." The collaborative effort includes authors representing state health and agriculture, CDC, FDA, and academia.

The effective use of product tracing as part of epidemiologic investigations has been demonstrated in numerous foodborne disease outbreaks. However, approaches used to conduct product tracing in this context have not been standardized, and application of this critical tool has not kept pace with the growing number and complexity of cluster investigations. This document summarizes rationale for conducting product tracing as part of epidemiologic investigations, how product tracing fits in with the rest of an investigation, how it can be conducted most efficiently and effectively, and barriers to its use.

*[Continues on page 2]*

## Stool Collection Video

TN CoE releases stool collection and shipping training video



The Tennessee Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence has recently made public a new training video. Titled, “Get the SCOOP! Stool Collection Operation and Optimum Packaging,” the video provides a 14-minute refresher or just-in-time training module for public health field workers that details the processes of stool collection, patient education, laboratory paperwork, and packaging and shipping stool specimens within the state. Although the training utilizes the Tennessee procedures and laboratory requisition as examples, federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) standards are applicable to all states, thus collection and shipping procedures should not vary significantly by jurisdiction.

The training may be viewed online at <http://bit.ly/GetTheSCOOP> or accessed through the CoE Tools and Resources webpage. The Tennessee CoE has also created an accompanying pre/post-test to assess knowledge change following viewing of the training video. Pre/post-test modules are currently undergoing pilot testing with new nursing staff across the state. Following

Local and state agencies are a primary focus of this document. However, because multi-jurisdictional outbreak investigations can benefit greatly from this product tracing, federal public health and regulatory agencies are critical collaborators. Please disseminate this document widely and consider its use in foodborne outbreak investigation trainings.

The paper can be found on the Minnesota CoE website at <http://bit.ly/WhitePaperTracing> or in the CIFOR clearinghouse at <http://www.cifor.us/clearinghouse/tooldetail.cfm?id=290>.

## Outbreak Case Study

CO Center of Excellence announces online outbreak case study

The Colorado Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence will release paper-based and online versions of the “Polka Festival Case Study” in Winter 2015-2016. Adapted from a 2011 outbreak at a polka dance festival in El Paso County, Colorado, this case study is an interactive approach for designing and implementing a cohort study.



The case study will provide students and public health professionals an opportunity to practice investigating a localized outbreak, from receipt of initial illness complaints to dissemination of results. The case study covers a range of critical investigation steps, including: hypothesis generation, outbreak team assembly, case definition, epi curve building, risk measure analysis, environmental assessments, and more.

It is the first of its kind to utilize a full, downloadable dataset for analysis using any of several software packages (including Excel, EPI Info7, OpenEPI, etc.) The online version, which incorporates a variety of tools developed by the Centers of Excellence, provides the flexibility to complete the case study individually, while maintaining the interactive experience. The paper-based version is ideal for a classroom setting to promote discussion and collaboration between student and instructor. Both versions will be available on the CoE Tools and Resources webpage.

## CoE LinkedIn Group

FL Center of Excellence moderates the CoEs' professional network presence

To aid in the development of a strong network of public health professionals who work in food safety, the CoEs have created an interactive group on LinkedIn. The social networking site has been designed specifically for the business community, allowing members to establish networks of people they know and trust professionally. The open discussion platform allows sharing of new innovations, current problems, and best practices to help improve foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak investigations. To sign up, go to [www.LinkedIn.com](http://www.LinkedIn.com) and enter your name, email address, and a password you'll use. To connect with the CoEs, search “Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence” and join the group.



pilot testing, the evaluation tool and certificate of completion will be made available through the CoE Tools and Resources webpage for adaptation by local jurisdictions.

If you are interested in pilot-testing the combined pre/post-test and training modules in your jurisdiction, please contact Tamara Chavez-Lindell ([Tamara.Chavez-Lindell@tn.gov](mailto:Tamara.Chavez-Lindell@tn.gov)) to arrange access.

### Find Us Online:

**CDC** — <http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/centers/>  
**CO** — <http://www.cofoodsafety.org/>  
**FL** — <http://foodsafetyflorida.org/>  
**MN** — <http://mnfoodsafetycoe.umn.edu/>  
**NY** — <http://nyfoodsafety.cals.cornell.edu/>  
**OR** — <http://www.healthoregon.org/fomes>  
**TN** — <http://foodsafety.utk.edu/>  
**CoE Tools** — <http://www.CoEFoodSafetyTools.org>  
**Twitter Feed** — @FoodSafetyCoE  
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