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# Centered on Food Safety

SUMMER | 2018



Integrated Food Safety  
Centers of Excellence

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

CDC has designated six Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence (CoEs) each comprising a state health department and affiliated university partners. The Centers are Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, and Tennessee.

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>.

## Curated Set of Interviewer Training Resources

**CO CoE releases toolkit of interviewer training resources for public health**

The Colorado Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence has released an Interviewer Toolkit to streamline training and reduce staff time needed to conduct in-person instruction. The Toolkit was designed as an aid for state agencies struggling to find time to train new hires, students and interns on how to conduct interviews. The Toolkit is a quick, self-paced, and independent training guide, that provides step-by-step instructions on how to prepare for and conduct interviews. It's easy to follow and also provides links to a number of excellent resources for people new to foodborne illness interviewing or who may need a quick refresher.

Download the toolkit at [http://bit.ly/CO\\_Interviewer\\_Toolkit](http://bit.ly/CO_Interviewer_Toolkit) or [www.coefoodsafetytools.org](http://www.coefoodsafetytools.org).



## Foodborne Illness Laboratorian Video

**FL CoE announces new video in foodborne illness introductory series**

The Florida Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence is pleased to announce the release of the fifth video in the Foodborne Illness Introductory Video Training Series, titled "Foodborne Outbreak Investigation: What does a laboratorian do?" The video provides a broad overview of the primary responsibilities a public health laboratorian performs during a foodborne outbreak investigation. To view this video, visit the FL CoE website (<http://foodsafetyflorida.org>) or the Florida CoE YouTube Channel ([http://bit.ly/FLCoE\\_LabRole](http://bit.ly/FLCoE_LabRole)).



## Link Up with the Food Safety Centers of Excellence!

Catch up with CoE representatives at these upcoming events:



<b>CSTE Annual Conference</b>	June 10-14, 2018	West Palm Beach, FL
<b>NEHA Annual Conference</b>	June 25-28, 2018	Anaheim, CA
<b>IAFP Annual Meeting</b>	July 8-11, 2018	Salt Lake City, UT
<b>NACCHO Annual Meeting</b>	July 10-12, 2018	New Orleans, LA

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:

### National Environmental Health Association



Incorporated in 1937, the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is a professional society that has been instrumental in establishing and continuously updating standards of excellence for practitioners in this wide-ranging and critical field. NEHA currently serves 5,000+ members and actively works to train them to meet strict standards of practice.

NEHA has developed credentials that evidence mastery of specialized knowledge, including the Certified Foodborne Outbreak Investigator (CFOI) Credential. A CFOI Credential holder utilizes environmental health principles and food safety knowledge in collaboration with outbreak response partners to assess foodborne illness risks, perform environmental assessments, identify contributing factors and antecedents, and implement control measures to prevent the spread of foodborne illness and protect the public. Learn more here: <http://www.neha.org/eh-topics/food-safety-0/environmental-assessments-and-training>.

NEHA, CDC, and the Colorado CoE, have developed a suite of tools, trainings and resources on environmental assessments conducted as part of foodborne illness outbreak investigations. This video (<https://tinyurl.com/yba3zjt9>) summarizes and helps navigate through the available trainings and resources. After watching, viewers will be able to describe which environmental assessment resources meet their training needs and the needs of their environmental health team.

## New Publication on *Salmonella* Incubation

*MN CoE publishes on incubation periods of non-typhoidal salmonellosis*

Incubation periods for foodborne *Salmonella* infections are challenging to document. Few published investigations include incubation periods calculated in hours, if at all.

Reference sources report incubation periods for non-typhoidal *Salmonella* (NTS) infections ranging from 6 to 72 h, with most between 23 to 36 h. However, there are numerous reports of foodborne NTS outbreaks with median incubation periods >3 days. To better estimate expected incubation periods for NTS infections, Minnesota summarized 16 years of foodborne NTS outbreaks, limiting analysis to those cases with sufficient data to calculate a precise incubation period (N=725). The median incubation period was 45 h; 77 (11%) cases had incubations ≤12 h and 211 (29%) cases had incubations >72h, including 124 (17%) cases with incubations of >72 to 120 h, 52 (7%) with incubations >120 to 168 h and 35 (5%) with incubations longer than 168 h. Culture confirmed cases had significantly longer median incubation periods to first symptom (54.5 h vs. 29.8 h;  $p < 0.001$ ) than probable cases.

The findings indicated a more accurate description would be that incubation of NTS infection is usually 12 to 96 h, but incubations ranging from >4 to 6 days are not unusual and incubations from 7 to 9 days and occasionally longer also occur. Incubation period varied by outbreak vehicle type, *Salmonella* serotype and outbreak setting. Implications for hypothesis generation and outbreak investigation are discussed in a manuscript which has just been published electronically by *Epidemiology and Infection* (<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0950268818000079>).

## Whole Genome Sequencing Applications

*CoEs offer live-learning series on WGS approaches for epidemiologists*

The Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence have collaborated to offer regional live-learning series focused on the application of WGS to surveillance and outbreak investigation. Using a training framework developed by the New York CoE and an online platform championed by the Colorado CoE, the series foster open discussion by epidemiologists, laboratorians, and environmental health staff about their experiences and challenges using WGS data. Topic areas include hqSNP and wgMLST differences, interpreting a phylogenetic tree, interpreting a distance matrix, and determining actions to be taken given a set of WGS results. Participants are encouraged to use a webcam to engage in the live-learning discussion sessions, which are moderated by CoE experts and invited guests. Live-learning series have been held by the Colorado, Minnesota, Tennessee, and Florida CoEs to-date. Another series, to be hosted by the Oregon CoE, is being planned for later in 2018. Contact your regional CoE for more information and to learn how to enroll!

### FIND US ONLINE

CDC	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/centers/">http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/centers/</a>
Colorado	<a href="http://www.cofoodsafety.org/">http://www.cofoodsafety.org/</a>
Florida	<a href="http://foodsafetyflorida.org/">http://foodsafetyflorida.org/</a>
Minnesota	<a href="http://mnfoodsafetycoe.umn.edu/">http://mnfoodsafetycoe.umn.edu/</a>
New York	<a href="http://nyfoodsafety.cals.cornell.edu/">http://nyfoodsafety.cals.cornell.edu/</a>
Oregon	<a href="http://www.healthoregon.org/fomes">http://www.healthoregon.org/fomes</a>
Tennessee	<a href="http://foodsafety.utk.edu/">http://foodsafety.utk.edu/</a>
CoE Tools	<a href="http://www.CoEFoodSafetyTools.org">http://www.CoEFoodSafetyTools.org</a>
Twitter Feed	@FoodSafetyCoE



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