



Centered on *Food Safety*

Summer 2021 Newsletter

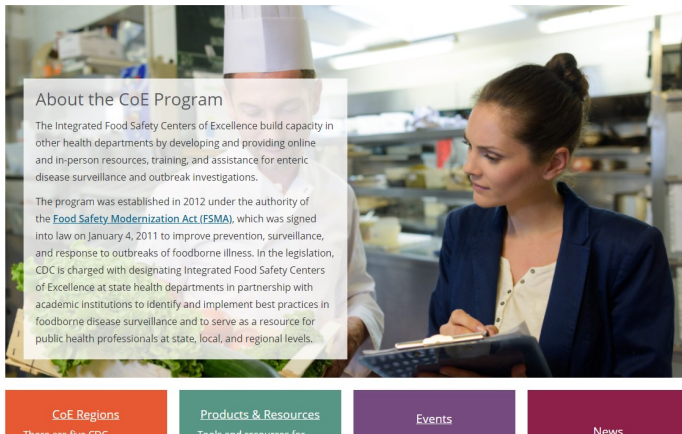
HIGHLIGHTING PRODUCTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE INTEGRATED FOOD SAFETY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

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

Announcing the NEW CoE Food Safety Website



Products & Resources CoE Regions Events News



On July 31st the Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence launched a new website (FoodSafetyCoE.org) that housing all CoE products, resources, and trainings.

Formally known as the CoEFoodSafetyTools.org the new website will be a one-stop shop for all your food safety needs.

New features on the website include an events calendar where public health staff will be able to find upcoming food safety trainings, webinars, conferences and other events.

We encourage you to visit the website and share any feedback you might have. We will continue to update and develop this website based on user needs. Please send comments to Nicole Arrowood at nicolearrowood@utk.edu.

Tennessee CoE Launches Community of Practice

The Tennessee Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence has begun creating and facilitating Community of Practice (CoP) groups, starting with one focused on WGS. The goal of the CoP model is to cultivate relationships within the region, with members supporting each other by sharing knowledge, resources, and experiences.

These sessions are a discussion-based and collaborative focused on information gathering, posing questions, sharing successes and challenges, receiving support, sharing tips, and considering best practices. Each session will focus on a specific topic and/or investigation. We encourage regional partners to share clusters they are currently investigating or past investigations that were interesting or informative.

The first WGS CoP session was held on August 2nd. In this session, we discussed the CoP model and facilitated a discussion about Salmonella enterica serovar Javiana. TN partners reviewed the results of a project they had completed concerning this serovar, discussed implications, and regional partners spoke of their experiences and trends in their state.

The TN WGS CoP series will be held quarterly and the next session is tentatively scheduled for November 1st at 3 PM ET (topic: TBA). If you would like a calendar invite or would like to suggest a topic or have an investigation you would like to share, please email Lauren Hudson (lkudson@utk.edu). More information can be found on the Resources & Tools page on the Tennessee Integrated [Food Safety CoE website](https://FoodSafetyCoE.org).

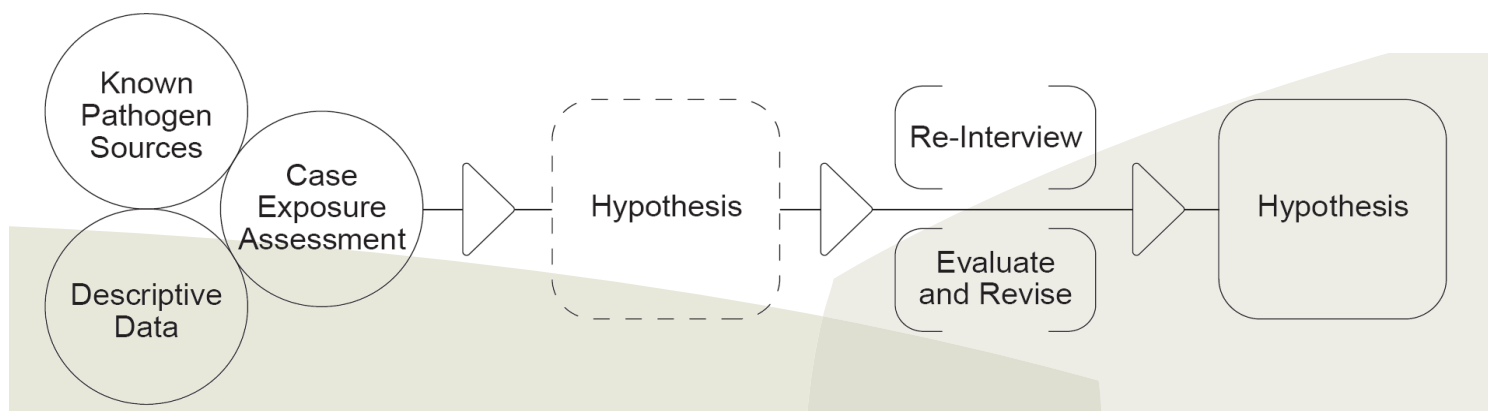


Hypothesis Generation During Foodborne-Illness Outbreak Investigations

Hypothesis generation is a critical, but challenging, step in a foodborne outbreak investigation. The pathogens that contaminate food have many diverse reservoirs, resulting in seemingly limitless potential vehicles. Identifying a vehicle is particularly challenging for clusters detected through national pathogen-specific surveillance because cases can be geographically dispersed and lack an obvious epidemiologic link. Moreover, state and local health departments could have limited resources to dedicate to cluster and outbreak investigations. These challenges underscore the importance of hypothesis generation during an outbreak investigation.

The Colorado Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence routinely hosts a popular ECHO training series on “Hypothesis Generation during a Foodborne Outbreak Investigation”. During this 4-session series, foodborne epidemiologists review available data, approaches, and tools for hypothesis generation. Recently, the content from this training was adapted and published as a review article in the American Journal of Epidemiology. The review presents a framework for hypothesis generation focusing on 3 primary sources of information, typically used in combination: 1) known sources of the pathogen causing illness; 2) person, place, and time characteristics of cases associated with the outbreak (descriptive data); and 3) case exposure assessment. Example case studies highlighting hypothesis-generating methods used in foodborne illness outbreaks are included.

A summary of this hypothesis generation framework is available as a [training video](#). For more information on upcoming “Hypothesis Generation during a Foodborne Outbreak Investigation” ECHO trainings, please contact the Colorado CoE.



Vibriosis Investigation Webinar and Toolkit

As the summer months bring beachgoers to coastal communities, they also signal the peak season for Vibriosis, causing thousands of illnesses annually in the United States. Check out WA CoE's on-demand webinar [Diving into Vibrio](#) to learn more about:

Vibrio species and the infections they cause in humans; interviewing tips for shellfish-associated case investigations; and how shellfish-traceback data is used to identify outbreaks. You will also find a downloadable questions and answers from the webinar, as well as the Vibrio Toolkit.

FIND US ONLINE

CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/centers/>

Colorado <http://www.cofoodsafety.org/>

Minnesota <http://mnfoodsafetycoe.umn.edu/>

New York <http://nyfoodsafety.cals.cornell.edu/>

Tennessee <http://foodsafety.utk.edu/>

Washington <http://foodsafety.uw.edu/>



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