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Centered on Food Safety

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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>.

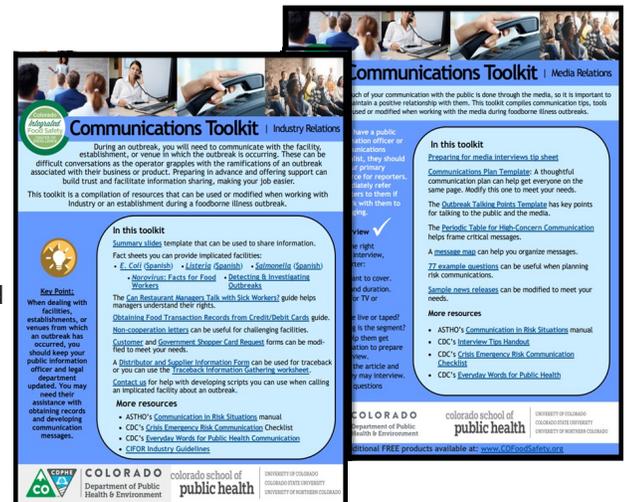
Communications Toolkit

Media and Industry Relations

The Colorado Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence has released two Communication Toolkits to centralize and provide quick access to a wide variety of tools and resources related to communicating with the media or an implicated establishment during an outbreak. Each toolkit provides basic tips and simple step-by-step instructions for communicating. Users may print off highlighted tools and templates to use directly or adapt them to fit specific needs. These toolkits can be used as a quick reference, training guide, or a starting point for standardizing communication around outbreaks within an agency.

Media Relations Toolkit

Industry Relations Toolkit



Whole Genome Sequencing Live Learning Series

A Collaboration Among CoEs

A whole genome sequencing (WGS) for laboratorians and epidemiologists live learning series (LLS) developed by the New York Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence (NY CoE) and the Colorado Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence (CO CoE) was piloted in December 2018. Laboratory-epidemiology teams attended from 15 states. The LLS consisted of three one-hour online sessions initiated with a short presentation then followed by participant-led Q&A. Topics included: (1) Lab-Epi WGS Workflow presented by NY, CO, and MN CoEs, (2) Basics of BioNumerics presented by CDC, and (3) Use of Case Studies to Illustrate Pathogen Thresholds, Cluster Identification and Resource Prioritization presented by NY, MN, and FL CoE's. Discussions included how to effectively communicate cluster information between laboratorian and epidemiologist counterpart(s), understand why different analytic tools produce different results, determine pathogen-specific SNP/allele cutoffs, and using the NCBI Pathogen Detection Browser for cluster identification. Presentation portions of each session are archived on the [NY CoE website](http://nyfoodsafety.cals.cornell.edu/molecular-epidemiology/). This series was developed to complement the 2017-18 CoE-developed Applied WGS LLS which introduced epidemiologists to the interpretation of WGS data available at: <https://nyfoodsafety.cals.cornell.edu/molecular-epidemiology/>.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:



[The National Association of County and City Health Officials \(NACCHO\)](#)

has launched a new **Foodborne Illness Outbreak Response Community of Practice (CoP)**, bringing together food safety professionals from across the country to share tips and best practices across jurisdictions in regards to foodborne illness outbreaks. Participants include local, state, and federal health staff.

The CoP will convene through regular conference calls and webinars.

For more information on how to join, email Amy Chang at achang@naccho.org.

New Key Points Documents

Minnesota CoE

The Minnesota Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence has created a series of summaries describing key points for foodborne outbreak detection and investigation. New Key Points documents on interviewing cases, prioritizing cluster investigations, and using binomial probability calculations during investigations are now available.

Access the documents at: <http://mnfoodsafetycoe.umn.edu/resources/>

Hypothesis Generation During a Foodborne Illness Outbreak

Colorado CoE ECHO Series

Hypothesis generation is a critical part of a foodborne illness outbreak investigation. It can help narrow the focus of the outbreak investigation, ensuring the most effective use of both time and resources. The CO CoE, in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center and ECHO Colorado, offers an ECHO series on “Hypothesis Generation During a Foodborne Illness Outbreak”. This interactive 4-session series introduces participants to available tools and resources. Each 60-minute session includes a short presentation by a subject matter expert followed by an outbreak case presentation and discussion among participants and subject matter experts.

Topics include:

- Importance of hypothesis generation
- Using descriptive and food-pathogen pair data for hypothesis generation
- Hypothesis generating questionnaires and unstructured interviews
- Binomial probabilities for hypothesis generation.



Each 60-minute session includes a short presentation by a subject matter expert followed by an outbreak case presentation and discussion among participants and subject matter experts.

FIND US ONLINE

CDC	http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/centers/
Colorado	http://www.cofoodsafety.org/
Florida	http://foodsafetyflorida.org/
Minnesota	http://mnfoodsafetycoe.umn.edu/
New York	http://nyfoodsafety.cals.cornell.edu/
Oregon	http://www.healthoregon.org/fomes
Tennessee	http://foodsafety.utk.edu/
CoE Tools	http://www.CoEFoodSafetyTools.org
Twitter Feed	@FoodSafetyCoE
LinkedIn	Search “Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence”

When asked what the most valuable part of the series was, participants said: “[The] ability to hear from other jurisdictions about how they’re developing and testing hypotheses.” “Connection to resources like the binomial probability calculator and the CDC *Salmonella* Atlas, as well as learning the experiences of other health departments.” For upcoming series, please visit: <https://connect.echocolorado.org/Series/SeriesRegistrationIndex> or contact the Colorado CoE cofoodsafety@ucdenver.edu. Registration is free.



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