

CFP Executive Board Meeting – August 29-30, 2006
Rockville, Maryland
8:00 am – 5:00 pm

CDC Report

- **Pandemic Influenza: Update on H5N1 in Humans:** During outbreaks since 2004, there have been 241 confirmed cases in humans and 141 deaths. There is still no evidence of sustained H5N1 transmission among people. No antigenic shift. No evidence of transmission through food.
- **CDC Food Safety Office is the CDC point of contact for Pandemic Flu National Implementation Plan Task 7.3.5.2** which reads: USDA and HHS, in coordination with DHS, State, local, and tribal partners, industry groups, and other stakeholders, shall develop guidelines to assure the public of the safety of the food supply during an outbreak of influenza in animals, within 6 months.
- **Dr. Sharunda Buchanan is serving as the Acting Director of the Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services.** Captain Charles Otto will serve as Acting Branch Chief for the Environmental Health Services Branch (EHSB).
- **EHSB is in the process of developing a new training course “Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response – Level 1”** in collaboration with Public Health Service officials including Clint Chamberlin at FDA/ ORAU. The course is designed as a basic, all-hazards emergency response training for environmental health professionals. It has a food component. It was first piloted at this year’s NEHA conference. Several more pilots of the training are planned during this and next year. The ultimate objective is to make the training available nationally.
- **There are two Environmental Health Specialists Network (EHS-Net) data collection projects currently underway:**
 - All nine of the EHS-Net states (CA, CT, GA, IA, MN, NY, OR, RI, TN) are participating in an Outbreak Study. The purpose of the study is to identify contributing factors to foodborne illness outbreaks and to determine the prevalence of establishment characteristics (e.g., food handling policies and practices) that are possible antecedents to outbreaks. The study population includes all food service establishment types (restaurants, schools, special events, etc) where food is prepared and served outside the home.
 - A project is underway to characterize the tomato handling policies and practices in restaurants. Eight of the nine EHS-Net states are participating in this project.
- **Studies currently under development with data collection expected to begin in early 2007 include:**

- A study of policies and practices associated with handling chicken in restaurants. Pathogen of concern is campylobacter.
 - A study of why workers work while ill. This study will involve interviews with managers and foodworkers.
 - A project focused on the value of inspections in preventing foodborne outbreaks.
 - EHS-Net states have developed a foodborne illness complaint data collection form that is designed to capture the information necessary to support an outbreak investigation. The form will be evaluated by local programs who have volunteered to use the form for six weeks. This form will be made available to all federal, state, local and tribal programs, pending the results of the evaluation.
-
- Georgia State University in partnership with EHSB will conduct a national survey of environmental health specialists who participate in foodborne outbreak investigations to determine their beliefs, practices, and barriers to outbreak investigations. Data collection is expected to begin this fall.
 - CDC Position on CFP Issue II-039: CDC supports the FDA Program Standards and respects FDA's position regarding II-039. CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) has as a mission to improve the practice and profession of the environmental health specialist and has provided funding through a number of avenues to support this mission. CDC sees FDA's Program Standards as a powerful influence on not just food safety programs but other environmental health programs as well. CDC was gratified to see the states overwhelmingly support II-039 to specify the educational requirements needed for the training standard. Given our mission and work in the area of improving the workforce, CDC does not support a rejection of this issue.