

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Conference for Food Protection Executive Board

August 24-25, 2010

“Modernizing” Outbreak Investigation:

Recent S Montevideo and pepper, and current Multistate Outbreak of S Enteritidis Associated with Shell Eggs are examples of new Federal multi-disciplinary, multi-agency approach to outbreak investigation and response. Implication of eggs was based on food history, traceback information, and history of past problems in the facility. There was no national case-control study, and the molecular microbiology has not been definitive to date. CDC, FDA, and FSIS are working on an SOP for multi-state outbreak investigations as well as environmental “root cause” investigations.

Four - five OutbreakNet Sentinel Sites (to be announced) have been funded in FY2010. Along with the three pilot sentinel the FY 2009 pilot sites in Utah, Wisconsin, and New York City, they will implement increased epidemiologic activities during outbreaks and improve coordination with all other members of the outbreak response teams during local and multi-jurisdictional outbreaks. CDC and FSIS are funding this project. The awards total about \$2M in FY 2010.

CIFOR Guidelines “Toolkit” is under development and has been piloted in one state. The toolkit will help public health and environmental health practitioners to better understand the guidelines and associated recommendations; examine current local foodborne disease surveillance, investigation, and control activities and identify problem areas; identify activities recommended in the guidelines that will help overcome problem areas; and prioritize recommended activities for implementation based on staff time, expertise, and other resources.

CDC Organization and Staff Changes

Beth Bell is the new Director, **National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID)**, which houses most infectious food-borne illness activities except for norovirus, hepatitis A, parasites, and environmental health services. Dr. Bell was involved with 1993 E coli O157 outbreak in Pacific Northwest and HAV in green onions outbreaks, 2003.

The **Food Safety Office** has been formally elevated from division-level to Office of the Director NCEZID. <http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/activities.html> .

Susan Lance, DVM, replaces Morrie Potter as the FDA liaison to CDC in Atlanta. There are three CDC liaisons at FDA HQ, Karen Deasy for drugs and devices, Andy Maccabe for food, and Eric Sampson for tobacco and other issues. Bonnie Kissler is new FSIS epidemiologist/liaison assigned to Ian Williams’ Outbreak Response & Prevention Branch.

Chris Braden, Acting Director, **Division of Food-borne, Water-borne & Environmental Diseases**, has reorganized bacterial food-borne epidemiology. Ian Williams is Chief of a new Outbreak Response & Prevention Branch. Patricia Griffin heads up the surveillance branch (e.g., FoodNet, NARMS, NORS, etc.) Michael Beach is chief of new water-borne disease branch the Division. Stephen Morse heads up an environmental microbiology effort transferred into the Division.

Christopher J. Portier, is the Director of the **National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (NCEH/ATSDR)**. Formerly, he was at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) where was the Senior Advisor to the Director and a Principal

Investigator in environmental systems biology. He is an internationally recognized expert in the design, analysis, and interpretation of environmental health data.

Funding

Economic Downturn: Adding Insult to Injury (*Available at www.naccho.org*)

- Recent study on effects of economic downturn on local health departments
- Loss of 15,000 jobs in last two years
- Cuts to public health hurt environmental health

Two CDC flexible funding opportunities for the future:

National Center for Emerging Zoonotic & Infectious Diseases (NCEZID)

Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Program: Additional \$20 million awarded in FY2010 under Affordable Care Act

The Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases Cooperative Agreement (ELC) addresses emerging infectious disease threats and build capacity among health departments. ELC investments support work on zoonotic and vector-borne diseases, foodborne diseases, influenza, antimicrobial resistance, and prion disease. <http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/activities.html>
www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=56320 .

Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support

Public Health Infrastructure: \$40 million awarded in FY2010 (Affordable Care Act funding)

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=55684> .

Data

The Foodborne Outbreak Online Database has been designed to allow the public direct access to information on foodborne outbreaks reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

<http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/activities.html> OR <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/foodborneoutbreaks/> .

EHS-Net

Two funding opportunity announcements were released between January-February 2010 for Revitalizing Core Environmental Health Programs through the Environmental Health Specialists Network (EHS-Net) relevant to research and practice (non-research) activities.

The research awardees to date for the 2010-2015 project funding cycle are (1) Minnesota Department of Health; (2) New York State Department of Health; and (3) Tennessee Department of Health.

The practice awardees for the 2010-2015 project funding cycle are (1) Cerro Gordo County IA Department of Public Health; (2) New York State Department of Health; (3) San Mateo County CA Department of Environmental Health; and (4) Tennessee Department of Health.

EPHOC: Environmental Public Health Online Courses

Seven of the fifteen **EPHOC: Environmental Public Health Online Courses** are [now available](#) for free enrollment.

EPHOC courses are taught by a group of environmental public health subject-matter experts from across the country. The list below shows the 15 courses and instructors for the total of over 45 hours of training. The instructor group is a mix of academic professors and Environmental Public Health practitioners in several different agency settings who planned their courses, determined their instructional formats, and created

“lecture-style” presentations in 40- to 60-minute modules. The training outline follows the NEHA *Registered Environmental Health Specialists / Registered Sanitarian Study Guide*.

The **EPHOC** training program includes:

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| 01. General Environmental Health | 09. Radiation Protection |
| 02. Statutes and Regulations | 10. Occupational Safety and Health |
| 03. Food Protection | 11. Air Quality and Environmental Noise |
| 04. Potable Water | 12. Housing Sanitation and Safety |
| 05. Wastewater | 13. Institutions and Licensed Establishments |
| 06. Solid and Hazardous Waste | 14. Swimming Pools and Recreational Facilities |
| 07. Hazardous Materials | 15. Disaster Sanitation |
| 08. Zoonoses, Vectors, Pests, and Weeds | - courses online now |

Target audiences for this training include: New-hire environmental public health professional; Individuals preparing for a state or national professional credentialing exam; Environmental health and other students; and Environmental public health professionals wanting to improve their technical knowledge. NEHA is offering pre-approved CE credit for each course completed.

Rat Tales

Control of rodents in food operations is one of the updated topics in the CDC Environmental Health Services Branch online training course, ***Biology and Control of Vectors and Public Health Pests: The Importance of Integrated Pest Management***. Following one of the world’s foremost rat experts on a rat’s eye view of a food operation and learn how to keep this public health pest in its place using modern integrated pest management techniques. More information on this course that also includes an in-depth session on ***Bed Bug Control*** is available on the [EHSB website](#).

Salmonella in the Caribbean

Computer-base or classroom version of outbreak training is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/epicasestudies/> “*Salmonella* in the Caribbean” is the most recent teaching case study; eligible for continuing education credit. <http://www.cdc.gov/epicasestudies/>

Pools Closed

About 1 out of 8 public pool inspections conducted in 13 states in 2008 resulted in pools being closed immediately due to serious code violations, according to a [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study](#) published in May. To assess pool code compliance, researchers analyzed data from 121,020 routine pool inspections conducted by a convenience sample of inspection report data from four states and 11 counties or cities. MMWR’s “Violations Identified from Routine Swimming Pool Inspections – Selected States and Counties, United States, 2008,” tied in with theme for Recreational Water Illness Prevention Week 2010, to show the importance of state and local environmental health programs in protecting their communities. This study is similar to proposals that have been before the last two Conference for Food Protection meetings for developing a system for compiling and analyzing routine food inspection reports.