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**COMMITTEE NAME:** Allergen Committee

**DATE OF REPORT:**  *Initial fall progress report*    *Spring progress report*    *Second fall progress report*

**Date submitted:** 10/7/2021

**Date amended (if applicable):** [Click here to enter a date.](#)

**Date accepted by Executive Board:** [Click here to enter a date.](#)

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT:**    *Council I*    *Council II*    *Council III*    *Executive Board*

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY:** Co-Chairs Dr. Amani Babekir and Michelle Hill

**COMMITTEE CHARGE(S):**

*Issue # 2020-II-011*

1. Develop an operational framework for food allergy prevention and control using existing research and other evidence-based materials (for example: CDC guidance in schools and guidance developed by retail food industry) in retail food establishments including:
  - a. A written template retail food establishments can use to reduce the risk of food allergy reactions and respond to any reactions that do occur. The template can incorporate findings, lessons, materials, etc. from items b-f.
  - b. Steps to take during a food allergy emergency and identify key components of food allergy emergency plans.
  - c. Food allergy training for food workers and identify educational content and training needs based on employees' assigned duties.
  - d. Findings, recommendations, and materials from the 2018 Allergen Committee to ensure retail food establishments have tools to notify customers when menu items contain major food allergens.
  - e. Food-handling practices, policies, and procedures to prevent food allergens from unintentionally contacting another food.
  - f. Equal considerations for alternate food sources, such as food pantries and food banks, to ensure equity and access.
2. Recommend changes to the Food Code that support retail food establishments to operationalize framework to prevent and control food allergic reactions.
3. Report back findings and recommendations to the next Biennial Meeting of the Conference for Food Protection

**COMMITTEE WORK PLAN AND TIMELINE:**

1. Develop an operational framework for food allergy prevention and control in retail food establishments as follows:
2. Review and evaluate all historic CFP Issues concerning Allergens, from 2000 to present, to understand the history of the issue within CFP and to identify all existing resources that may inform current work.
3. Evaluate existing materials including CDC food allergens guidance, CDC guidance in schools and guidance developed by retail food industry, existing research, and any other relevant guidance and documents including:
  - a. Steps to take during a food allergy emergency and identify key components of food allergy emergency plans.
  - b. Food allergy training for food workers and identify educational content and training needs based on employees' assigned duties.
  - c. Food-handling practices, policies, and procedures to prevent food allergens from unintentionally contacting another food.
  - d. Equal considerations for alternate food sources, such as food pantries and food banks, to ensure equity and access.
  - e. Tools retail food establishments could use to notify customers when menu items contain major food allergens – use findings, recommendations, and materials from the 2018 Allergen Committee.
4. Use the identified findings, lessons, and materials to:
  - a. Write a template retail food establishment can use to reduce the risk of food allergy reactions and respond to any reactions that do occur.
  - b. Written framework for implementation of Allergen Control measures.
5. Recommend changes to the Food Code that support retail food establishments to operationalize framework to prevent and control food allergic reactions.
6. Report back findings and recommendations to the next Biennial Meeting of the Conference for Food Protection.

TIMELINE: Allergen Committee work will be completed by December 30, 2022.

**COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES:**

**1. Dates of committee meetings or conference calls:**

- a. Meetings to date: 9/29, 9/30, 10/01, 10/07
- b. Proposed Meeting Dates through end of Dec 2022.

Weekly on Friday at 10 am EST/9 am CST (\* meeting is a day other than Friday due to Holiday conflict)

2021: 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/05, 11/12, 11/19, 11/23\*, 12/03, 12/10, 12/17, 12/22\*, 12/29\*

2022: 01/07, 01/14, 01/21, 01/28, 02/04, 02/11, 02/18, 02/25, 03/04, 03/11, 03/18, 03/25, 04/01, 04/08, 04/15, 04/22, 04/29, 05/06, 05/13, 05/20, 05/27, 06/03, 06/10, 06/17, 06/24, 07/01, 07/08, 07/15, 07/22, 07/29, 08/05, 08/12, 08/19, 08/26, 09/02, 09/09, 09/16, 09/23, 09/30, 10/07, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/04, 11/11, 11/18, 11/22\*, 12/02, 12/09, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30

**2. Overview of committee activities:**

Completed Committee Member selection process, proposed Committee roster is attached. Determined the scope of the work and proposed timeline for charge completion. Determined that sub committees may be necessary in order to complete charges within the Biennium timeframe, and the sub-committees may be "Research" and "Framework".

**3. Charges COMPLETED and the rationale for each specific recommendation:**

- a.
- b.

**4. Status of charges still PENDING and activities yet to be completed:**

- a.

**COMMITTEE REQUESTED ACTION FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

- Board Action is NOT required and therefore the report can be placed on the consent calendar for Board review and acceptance.**
- Board Action is required for some provision(s) of this report and therefore a verbal report needs to be presented at the Board Meeting.**

- 1. Request Approval of the Allergen Committee roster
- 2.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**1. Content Documents:**

- a. **Committee Member Roster:**  See changes noted above under "requested action"  No changes to previously approved roster  
"Committee Members Template" (Excel) available at: [www.foodprotect.org/work/](http://www.foodprotect.org/work/) Committee roster to be submitted as a PDF attachment to this report.
- b. **Committee Generated Content Documents (OPTIONAL):**  No draft content documents submitted at this time

**2. Supporting Attachments (OPTIONAL):**  Not applicable