

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

Epidemiology and Emerging Infections Program Infectious Diseases Section

January 22, 2019

Dear Local Director of Health:

The purpose of this letter is to request continued collaboration on follow-up interviews for foodborne/enteric disease cases, which will reduce duplication of efforts, and to provide an update on preliminary 2018 foodborne disease surveillance data.

This is the 24th year that Connecticut has participated in the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet), the principle foodborne disease component of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Emerging Infections Program. It is also the 8th year that Connecticut will participate in the Foodborne Diseases Centers for Outbreak Response Enhancement (FoodCORE), through which all participating centers work toward developing better methods to detect, investigate, respond to, and control local and multistate foodborne outbreaks. Additional information about these programs can be found at: www.cdc.gov/foodnet/ (FoodNet) and www.cdc.gov/foodcore/ (FoodCORE).

In 2019, FoodNet/FoodCORE staff will continue to interview all cases of **cyclosporiasis, *E. coli* O157 and non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) infection, listeriosis, salmonellosis (for those LHDs currently deferring to FoodCORE), shigellosis and vibriosis. Selected campylobacteriosis (those cases reported by Quest Diagnostics), as part of a FoodNet project focusing on antibiotic resistant**



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foodborne/enteric infections, will be targeted for interview by DPH and indicated as such in the “Notes” field of the CT Electronic Disease Surveillance System (CTEDSS/Maven). All data from *any* interview conducted by FoodNet/FoodCORE will be entered or attached to the patient’s record in CTEDSS. When an ill person who works in a high-risk occupation (i.e. foodhandler, health-care worker, daycare attendee/staff) is identified, the relevant local health department(s) will be notified.

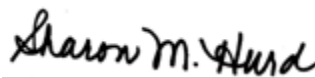
LHDs should continue to conduct interviews on all other foodborne/enteric disease cases. These include cases of campylobacteriosis not reported by Quest, cryptosporidiosis, and yersiniosis using the appropriate pathogen-specific “**General Enteric Diseases Interview Form**” (**GEDIF**) (attached). Completed GEDIF information should be entered directly into CTEDSS upon completion. If data entry assistance is needed, the GEDIF can be faxed to the DPH Epidemiology Program. Additionally, Enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (ETEC) is now laboratory-reportable beginning in 2019. Follow-up on cases of ETEC will be conducted by DPH staff.

Please share these documents with your staff responsible for foodborne disease surveillance and follow-up. If you have any questions about FoodNet or FoodCORE, please contact Sharon Hurd (203-764-4362) at Yale School of Public Health or Quyen Phan at DPH (860-509-7994).

Sincerely,



Matthew Cartter, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist



Sharon Hurd, MPH
FoodNet Coordinator



Quyen Phan, MPH
FoodCORE Coordinator

Preliminary 2018 FoodNet/FoodCORE Data

(as of 01/09/2019)

Table 1. Number of Cases Reported and Interviewed, 2018

Pathogen	No. Cases Reported	No. (%) Cases Interviewed
Campylobacter*	727	561 (77%)
Cryptosporidium	74	28 (38%)
Cyclospora*	24	21 (88%)
Escherichia coli (shiga toxin-producing)*	131	115 (88%)
Listeria*	18	17 (94%)
Salmonella*	509	430 (84%)
Shigella*	87	71 (82%)
Vibrio*	54	44 (81%)
Yersinia	62	16 (26%)

*pathogens interviewed by DPH/FoodNet/FoodCORE: selected Campylobacter, all Cyclospora, all STEC, all Listeria, all Shigella, all Vibrio, all Salmonella for LHDs (~90%) that defer to FoodCORE.

Table 2. Number of Clusters Identified and Investigated, 2018

Pathogen	No. of Clusters (n=98)
Salmonella	72
Campylobacter	10
Shigella	5
Cryptosporidium	4
E. coli (shiga toxin-producing)	4
Listeria	1
Vibrio	1
Cyclospora	1

Table 3. Number of Outbreaks Identified and Investigated, 2018

Etiology	No. of Outbreaks (n=30)^
Norovirus	11
Salmonella spp.	11
Clostridium perfringens	2
E. coli O157	1
Campylobacter	1
Cyclospora	1
Sapovirus	1
Enteropathogenic E.coli	1
Undetermined	3

^ 11 outbreaks were multistate

Connecticut Emerging Infections Program
Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet)
Foodborne Diseases Centers for Outbreak Response Enhancement (FoodCORE)

FoodNet/FoodCORE is interviewing the following cases in 2019:

- All cases of listeriosis (*specialized CDC form*)
- All cases of cyclosporiasis (*specialized CDC form*)
- All cases of *E. coli* O157 and non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) infection (*specialized state form*)
- All cases of vibriosis (*specialized CDC form*)
- All cases of shigellosis
- Cases of salmonellosis (for those LHDs deferring to FoodCORE)
- Selected cases of campylobacteriosis (reported by Quest Diagnostics)

Local health departments are responsible for interviewing all other cases of foodborne/enteric diseases with the appropriate General Enteric Diseases Interview Form (GEDIF) (unless otherwise noted):

- All cases of salmonellosis (*unless deferred to FoodCORE*)
- All cases of campylobacteriosis^ (NOT reported by Quest Diagnostics)
- All cases of cryptosporidiosis
- All cases of yersiniosis
- All cases of Typhoid/Paratyphoid Fever (*specialized CDC form*)

Completed GEDIFs should be entered directly into CTEDSS or faxed to the DPH Epidemiology Program **upon completion** at **860-509-7910**. If faxed, DPH staff will enter interview information into CTEDSS.

Ideally, all interviews should be attempted within 24-48 hours and completed within 1 week of receipt of report. The following attempts are recommended:

- At least 3 telephone calls during normal working hours on multiple days
- If possible, at least 1 call outside normal working hours (i.e. evening and/or weekend)

The FoodCORE team is available to provide assistance with **Salmonella interviews** (all *Salmonella* cases or on a case-by-case basis). To request assistance, please contact FoodCORE at **203-764-4365**. In 2019, FoodCORE will continue to conduct *Salmonella* interviews for LHDs that currently defer.

^Special Note on Campylobacter: Beginning in 2018, *Campylobacter* cases **reported by Quest will be interviewed by DPH**. LHDs must check CTEDSS in order to know which cases will be interviewed by DPH. A message indicating “CASE TO BE INTERVIEWED BY DPH” will be entered into the “Notes” field in CTEDSS for selected *Campylobacter* cases targeted for DPH interview. LHDs should interview all other *Campylobacter* cases.

For more information regarding FoodNet or FoodCORE, please contact:

Sharon Hurd, FoodNet Coordinator	203-764-4362	sharon.hurd@yale.edu
Quyen Phan, FoodCORE Coordinator	860-509-7994	quyen.phan@ct.gov