

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

Epidemiology and Emerging Infections Program Infectious Diseases Section

March 17, 2023

Dear Local Director of Health:

The purpose of this letter is to request continued collaboration on follow-up interviews of foodborne/enteric disease cases, which will reduce duplication of efforts, and to provide an update on preliminary 2020/2021/2022 foodborne disease data.

This is the 28th 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 12th 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/ and www.cdc.gov/foodcore/.

In 2023, FoodNet/FoodCORE staff will continue to interview all cases of **cyclosporiasis, Enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC), *E. coli* O157 and non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) infection, listeriosis, salmonellosis, shigellosis and vibriosis. Selected campylobacteriosis** (those cases reported by Quest Diagnostics), as part of a FoodNet project focusing on antibiotic resistant foodborne/enteric infections, will be targeted for interview by FoodNet/FoodCORE staff and indicated as such in the "Notes" field of the CT Electronic Disease Surveillance System (CTEDSS). All data from *any*



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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. food handler, health-care worker, daycare attendee/staff) is identified, the relevant local health department(s) will be notified.

Local health departments (LHDs) should continue to conduct interviews on all other foodborne/enteric disease cases. These include cases of campylobacteriosis not reported by Quest, and yersiniosis using the appropriate pathogen-specific "**General Enteric Diseases Interview Form**" (**GEDIF**) (attached). Completed GEDIF information should be entered directly into CTEDSS using the GEDIF Wizard.

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 Tamara Rissman (tamara.rissman@yale.edu) at Yale School of Public Health or Christina Turner at DPH (christina.turner@ct.gov).

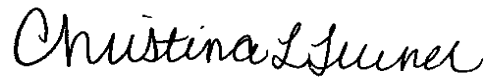
Sincerely,



Lynn Sosa, MD
Acting State Epidemiologist



Tamara Rissman, MPH
FoodNet Coordinator



Christina Turner, MPH
FoodCORE Coordinator

Preliminary 2020-2022 FoodNet/FoodCORE Data

(as of 01/11/2023)

Table 1. Number of Cases Reported and Interviewed, 2020-2022

Pathogen	2020		2021		2022	
	No. of Cases Reported	No. (%) of Cases Interviewed	No. of Cases Reported	No. (%) of Cases Interviewed	No. of Cases Reported	No. (%) of Cases Interviewed
Campylobacter*	493	349 (71%)	706	386 (55%)	690	288 (42%)
Cyclospora	7	6 (86%)	27	23 (85%)	25	22 (88%)
Enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli (ETEC)*	29	20 (69%)	62	38 (61%)	134	74 (55%)
Escherichia coli (shiga toxin-producing)*	77	66 (86%)	115	96 (83%)	145	111 (77%)
Listeria*	10	10 (100%)	21	14 (67%)	15	13 (87%)
Salmonella*	355	307 (86%)	442	372 (84%)	472	373 (79%)
Shigella*	46	35 (76%)	91	68 (75%)	116	74 (64%)
Vibrio*	48	41 (85%)	52	33 (63%)	55	37 (67%)
Yersinia	51	21 (41%)	73	28 (38%)	97	31 (32%)

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

Table 2. Number of Clusters Identified and Investigated, 2020-2022

Pathogen	2020 No. of Clusters (n=58)	2021 No. of Clusters (n=59)	2022 No. of Clusters (n=56)
Campylobacter	12	10	2
Cyclospora	0	1	0
E. coli (shiga toxin-producing)	3	3	1
Listeria	0	2	1
Salmonella	39	37	47
Shigella	3	6	5
Vibrio	1	0	0
Yersinia	0	0	0

Table 3. Number of Outbreaks Identified and Investigated, 2020-2022

Etiology	2020 No. of Outbreaks (n=15)*	2021 No. of Outbreaks (n=21)**	2022 No. of Outbreaks (n=15)***
Norovirus	3	3	2
Salmonella	11	13	8
Cyclospora	0	1	0
E. coli (shiga toxin-producing)	1	0	0
Listeria	0	1	0
Campylobacter	0	1	1
Undetermined	0	1	3
Clostridium perfringens	0	1	0
Enterotoxigenic E. coli	0	0	1

*11 outbreaks were multistate

**10 outbreaks were multistate

***8 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:

- 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 Enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC) infection (*specialized state form*)
- All cases of vibriosis (*specialized CDC form*)
- All cases of shigellosis (*shigellosis specific GEDIF*)
- All cases of salmonellosis
- 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 campylobacteriosis[^] (NOT reported by Quest Diagnostics)
- All cases of yersiniosis

Completed GEDIFs should be entered directly into CTEDSS, using the GEDIF Wizard.

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)
- Consider sending a text message if phone number is associated with a cell phone

The FoodCORE team is available to provide assistance with interviewing. To request assistance, please contact FoodCORE: tamara.rissman@yale.edu

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

For more information regarding FoodNet or FoodCORE, please contact:

Tamara Rissman, FoodNet Coordinator 203-737-6803 tamara.rissman@yale.edu

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