

Foodborne Disease Investigation, Traceback and Regulatory Action

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Purpose [1]

- Describe the FSIS role in foodborne disease investigations
- Describe the FSIS procedures in conducting foodborne disease investigations

Purpose [2]

- Outline and discuss the use of epidemiologic, traceback, environmental, and microbiologic data in investigations
- Outline considerations for regulatory action in response to investigation findings

Investigation Objectives

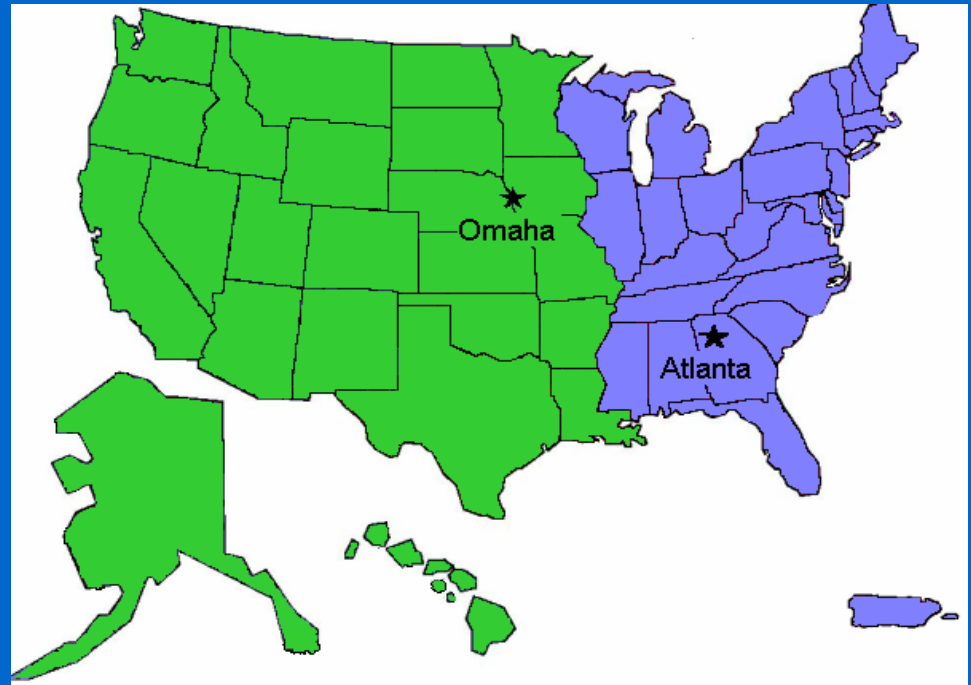
- Verify the association
- Identify the source of production
- Prevent further exposures of consumers
- Initiate regulatory action (when indicated)
- Identify contributing factors
- Prepare an internal summary and lessons learned

Step 1: Human Health Surveillance

- **Ongoing disease surveillance conducted by**
 - Local, State and Territorial health departments
 - CDC
- **Ongoing monitoring of foodborne disease reports by FSIS**
 - Public Health and Epidemiology Officers (PHEs) in Omaha and Atlanta
 - FSIS liaison to CDC in Atlanta

PHELS in Omaha, Atlanta: State and Territorial Coverage

*A toll free number is available
for use by state, local and
territorial public health partners
to report foodborne disease*



Number for general inquiries, available to general public
USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline
888-674-6854

FSIS Learn of Foodborne Illness

- State, territorial and local health departments
- FDA, CDC
- PulseNet, EpiX, eLEXNET
- ProMed, FSNet
- Industry
- News Media

Step 2: Illness Reported; FSIS Product Suspect

- FSIS receives epidemiologic data from other public health agencies
- FSIS judges the strength of the association using recognized criteria
 - temporal sequence; biological plausibility; specificity; dose response; relative risk/odds ratio
- FSIS determines that further action is necessary

Step 3: FSIS Begins Investigation

- **Traceback and Traceforward**
- **Microbiological Results**
 - Product
 - Clinical
 - Environmental
- **In-plant Assessment**

Product Traceback Investigations: What We Need to Know

● Who?

- Producing establishment number

● What?

- Name and type
- Lot number
- Product code
- Product weight and units per case
- Percent lean

● When?

- Production code
- Sell by/use by date

● Where?

- Amount of product purchased
- Purchase date
- Point of purchase, including name and complete address

Is there any left over product held by consumer? Packaging?
Are there other sources of the same product?

Step 4: FSIS Analysis of Available Data

- Is the epidemiologic evidence consistent with:
 - microbiological data?
 - traceback investigation?
 - environmental evaluation?
 - in-plant findings?

Step 5: FSIS Regulated Product Implicated [1]

- **Considerations for Agency action :**
 - the pathogen and severity of illness
 - population at risk
 - whether new cases are being reported

Step 5: FSIS Regulated Product Implicated [2]

- **Considerations for Agency action:**
 - strength of the epidemiologic data
 - strength of lab data
 - investigation at point of purchase and/or preparation

Step 6: Agency Action

- The Agency considers requesting a recall or detaining and seizing product in accordance with the Acts
- The Agency considers a consumer alert to advise about product in commerce

Step 7: FSIS Assessment of the Investigation & Lessons Learned

- An internal summary documents the investigation, findings, and recommendations
- Lessons learned generated by those involved in the investigation

Questions?