An Introduction

CORE Network

FDA’s New Approach to Managing Foodborne Outbreak Surveillance, Response and Post-Response Efforts

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Response Team Leader

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What is CORE?

- FDA’s Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation Network
- Launched August 1, 2011
- Created to manage Surveillance, Response, and Post-response activities related to incidents of illness linked to FDA-regulated human and animal food
- Builds upon the best in FDA’s current outbreak response efforts
- Designed to streamline and strengthen FDA’s efforts to:
  - Prevent
  - Detect
  - Investigate
  - Respond
  - Evaluate
  - Apply Lessons Learned
CORE Goals

- Streamline outbreak-related processes, which were previously dispersed throughout the FDA
- Enhance transparency and working relationships with our internal and external partners
CORE Mission and Vision

**Mission**
To coordinate, conduct, and improve FDA’s preparedness, response, and post-response efforts involving human and animal foodborne outbreaks of illness, both within the Agency and in collaboration with our partners.

**Vision**
A safer food supply through a systematic, science-based approach to preparedness, early detection, rapid response, and post-response investigations of human and animal food outbreaks of illness.
CORE Functional Areas

• Signals and Surveillance
• Response
• Communications
• Post-Response
CORE Scope

- Monitoring the early investigation of clusters or illness
- Coordinating complex outbreak response activities across CFSAN, CVM and ORA
- Responding to outbreaks where an in-depth investigation is needed
- Determining root causes, where appropriate
- Ensuring implementation of lessons learned into preventive strategies to minimize future public health threats
CORE Interaction with External Partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CDC</th>
<th>USDA</th>
<th>States</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Works with CORE Signals &amp; Surveillance Team to discuss emerging outbreaks</td>
<td>Weekly meetings with CORE Signals &amp; Surveillance Team and CDC to discuss emerging outbreaks</td>
<td>CORE works through FDA District Offices with state and local public health and agriculture officials on investigations and inspections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Works with CORE Response Teams on outbreaks related to FDA-regulated human and animal foods</td>
<td>FSIS and other USDA offices work closely with CORE Response Teams on outbreaks associated with dual-jurisdiction products</td>
<td>Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) continue to work with FDA District Offices</td>
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CORE Program Structure

- **Chief Medical Officer (Kathleen Gensheimer)**
  - Final Decision Maker for all Outbreak Response Operations
  - Agency’s Spokesperson on outbreaks
  - Direct Line of Communication with those responding to outbreaks

- **Acting Deputy Director (RADM Brenda Holman, USPHS)**
  - Supports CMO
  - Advises on Strategic Direction to Response

- **Two Managers**
  - Response Manager (Roberta Hammond)
  - Acting Prevention Manager (Lawrence Harmon, Jr.)
CORE Prevention: **Signals and Surveillance Team**

**Specific Roles & Responsibilities**

- Analyzes internal and external information for illness trends and potential clusters of illness.
- Monitors emerging clusters of illness.
- Communicates regularly with CDC and USDA to discuss emerging human and animal food outbreaks.
- Provides data and trending information for situational awareness reports.
CORE Response Teams:
Specific Roles & Responsibilities

- Coordinates information flow across organizations during a response.
- Along with our internal and external partners, determines strategy for and manages the implementation of response activities.
- Conducts traceback investigations in collaboration with FDA District Offices.
- Evaluates environmental, epidemiologic, and laboratory data to inform assignments and outbreak investigations.
- Applies ICS principles during response efforts
CORE Prevention: Post-Response Team
Specific Roles & Responsibilities

- Performs environmental assessments/root-cause analysis.
- Integrates outbreak findings into FDA guidance, policies, and regulations for human and animal food.
- Publishes findings on outbreak investigations and environmental assessments.
- Develops and maintains performance metrics.
- Maintains the CORE Outbreak Database
- Conducts lessons learned and lessons learned reports following an outbreak.
CORE Communications Team:
Specific Roles & Responsibilities

• Provides strategic communications.
• Ensures consistent and coordinated messaging during outbreaks.
• Develops talk points, FAQs, and web copy.
• Participates on cross-agency workgroups to enhance outbreak communications efforts with CDC and USDA.
• Works with internal and external stakeholders
**SIGNALS**

Receive Data from Internal and External Sources

Signal is found

**CORE TRANSFER FROM SIGNALS TO RESPONSE**

**RESPONSE**

Plan Strategy and Objectives to include Assignments and Activities

Assignments and Activities are completed

CORE analyzes, manages, and shares information received

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES ARE NEEDED

**CORE TRANSFER FROM RESPONSE TO POST RESPONSE**

Post Response Activities are conducted

CLOSE INCIDENT

**POST RESPONSE**
CORE Network In Action

- Listeria in Cantaloupes
- S. Infantis in Diamond Dog Food
- S. Bareilly/S. Nchanga in Tuna
- Mycobacterium in Tattoo Ink
- S. Agona in Papayas
- S. Enteritidis in Pine Nuts
- And many more!
The CORE Network
The Summary

- The CORE Network
  - Builds Upon FDA’s Established Best Practices
  - Incorporates Lessons Learned
  - Expands FDA’s Monitoring and Post-Response Capabilities
  - Investigates and Documents Underlying Causes
  - Drives Prevention-Based Food Safety Policies

Web page:
http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/CORENetwork/default.htm
Questions?