

# ***S. Saintpaul* Outbreak Traceback Investigation: Minnesota State Perspective**

*2013 InFORM*

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# Objectives

- Describe relationship among EH, Epi, and Lab partners
- Describe how local, state, and federal agencies collaborate
- Identify key lessons learned

# Initial MN Timeline



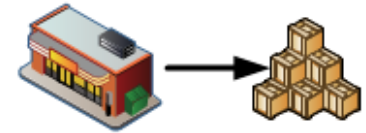
2/28

MDH Lab identifies  
3 matching isolates



3/11

MDH notifies MDA of cluster  
MN has 5 cases



3/20

MDA begins traceback  
of cucumbers, tomatoes

2/28/2013



3/3

CDC notifies PH officials  
of nationwide cluster  
6 cases in 3 states

3/4/2013

3/11/2013

3/11

Begin request for purchase data



3/18/2013



3/18

CDC Multi-state call

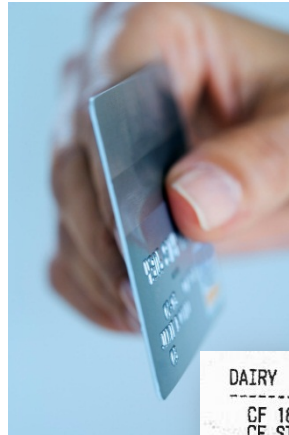
3/22/2013



3/20

CDC Multi-state call  
41 cases in 14 states

# Exposures of Interest?

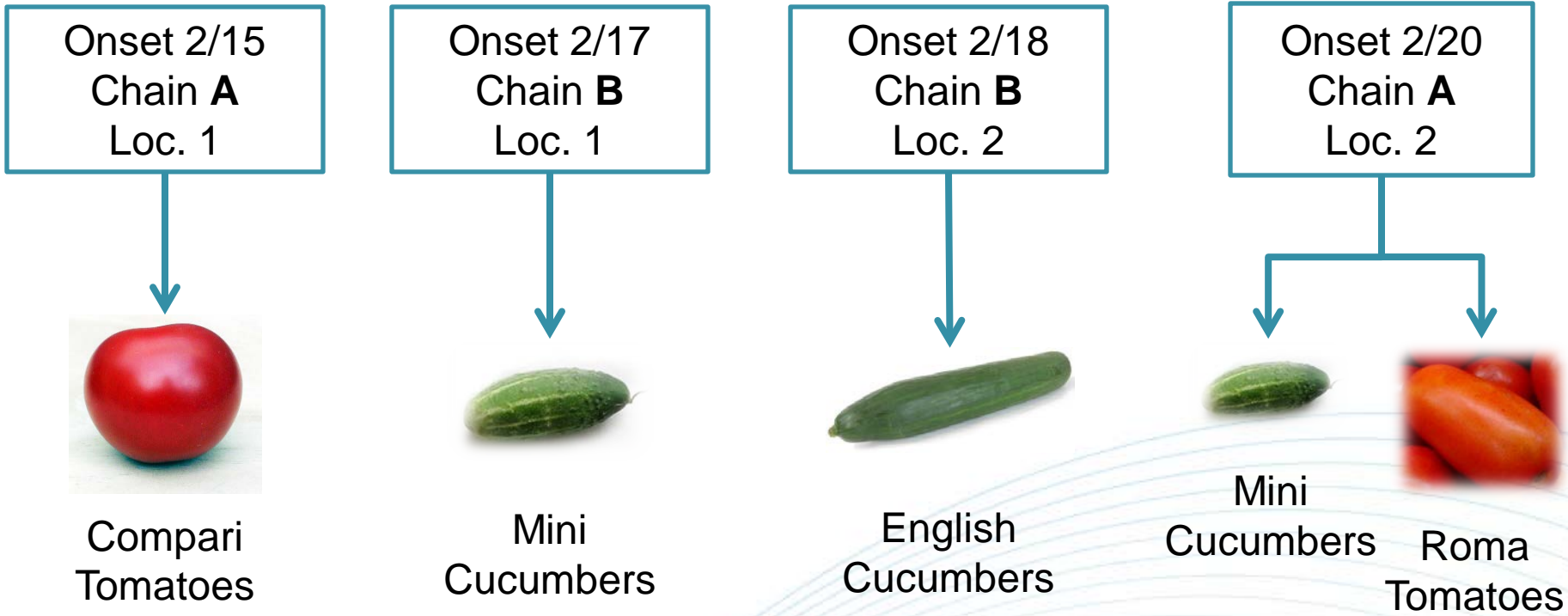


MN: All 5 had shopper cards;  
4 of 5 provided permission

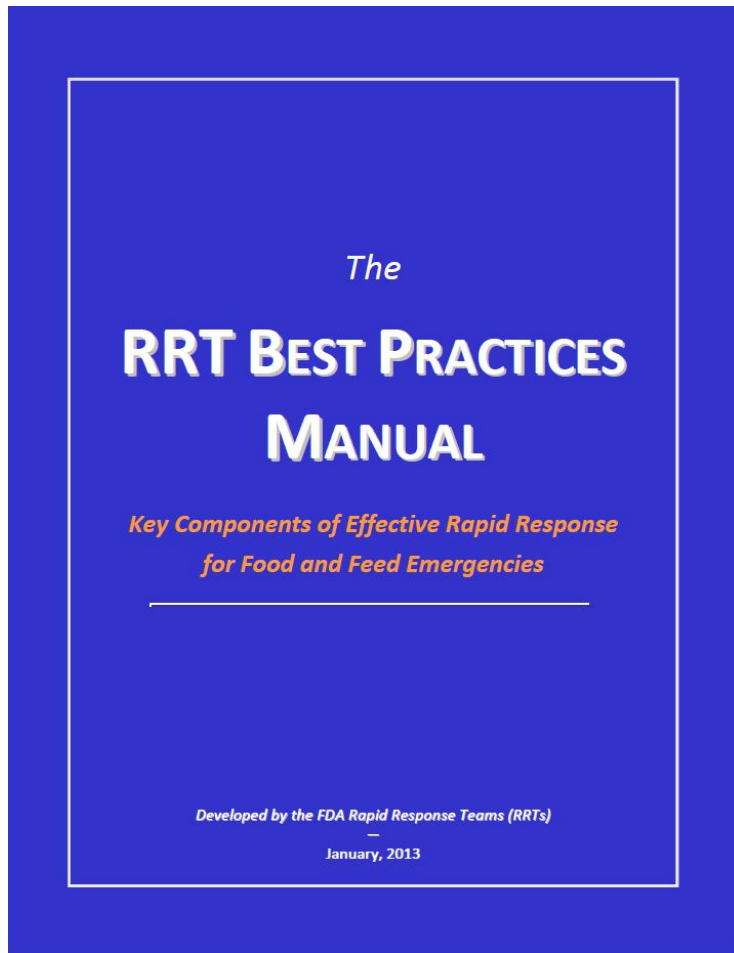
DAIRY		
CF 18CT LRG EGG	\$2.99	F
CF STRING CHEESE	\$7.68	F
DAN ACTIVIA LT RASPB	\$2.99	F
OH DILL DIP	\$2.39	F
OH FR/ONION DIP	\$1.45	F
FRESH MEAT		
93% LN GROUND BEEF	\$9.26	F
93% LN GROUND BEEF	\$9.03	F
FROZEN FOOD		
ALEXIA JULIENNE FRY	\$4.39	F
BREW PUB 4-MEAT PZZA		
Promotion		
ESSEV WHOLE CORN	\$5.99	F
	\$3.29	F
GROCERY		
BRWNBRY BTRMLK BRD		
Promotion		
BRWNBRY DATNUT BREAD	\$3.49	F
Promotion		
BUSH BLK BEAN FIESTA	\$3.49	F
C SHELBY CHILI MIX	\$2.19	F
ESSEV BRD/BTR CHIPS	\$2.55	F
ESSEV CRM/MUSHROOM	\$2.09	F



# Getting Started – Investigational Traceback



# Best Practice: Conducting Traceback Investigations



- Traceback initiation
- Coordination
- Documentation
  - Templates
  - Interview guides
- Investigational vs. Regulatory
- Email [OP-ORA@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:OP-ORA@fda.hhs.gov) to receive a PDF copy



# Evolving Investigation, Narrowing Focus



- March 27 FDA CORE call
  - 51 cases in 15 states
  - 82% of interviewed claimed **cucumber** exposure
  - Establish single POC for retail/restaurant chains
  - Coordinated tracebacks
  - **“Epi alone is not going to solve this”**



# Lab: Household Samples

- 2 households had cucumbers that were purchased at the same time as those consumed prior to illness
  - English cucumber (no packaging/marks)
  - Mini cucumbers (in open packaging)
- Both tested negative for *Salmonella*





# Identifying the Source

- CA, TX, MN, & FDA conducting tracebacks
- SD case – distribution through a large MN produce wholesalers (Distributor A)
- FDA CORE finds convergence among CA, TX, SD cases (~4/10/2013)
- FDA taking action to determine if adulterated product still in marketplace

# Identifying the Source

- FDA posts Import Alert on 4/25 for 2 cucumber growers in Mexico
- MN has 4 additional cases – total to 9
  - 9<sup>th</sup> case: onset 4/19/ 2013, eaten at Chain A restaurant common to cases in other states
  - On 5/2, Local HD initiates traceback
  - Cucumbers sourced through Distributor A
  - Converges with other traceback legs
  - Urine specimen isolate, onset potentially earlier

# Closing the Loop on MN Cases

- 10 cases: 9 primary, 1 secondary case
- 5 traceback legs initiated: 4 cucumber, 1 tomato, 1 cucumber & tomato
  - 1 leg converged
- 2 add'l cases ate at other Chain A locations
- Implicated cucumbers distributed through 2 major producer wholesalers

# Newly Identified Best Practice: Using Credit Card Info to Get Receipts



DAIRY		
CF 18CT LRG EGG		
CF STRING CHEESE		
DAN ACTIVIA LT RASPB		
OH DILL DIP		
OH FR/ONION DIP		
FRESH MEAT		
93% LN GROUND BEEF		
93% LN GROUND BEEF		
FROZEN FOOD		
ALEXIA JULIENNE FRY	\$4.39	F
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BRWNBRY OATNUT BREAD		
Promotion	\$3.49	F
BUSH BLK BEAN FIESTA	\$2.19	F
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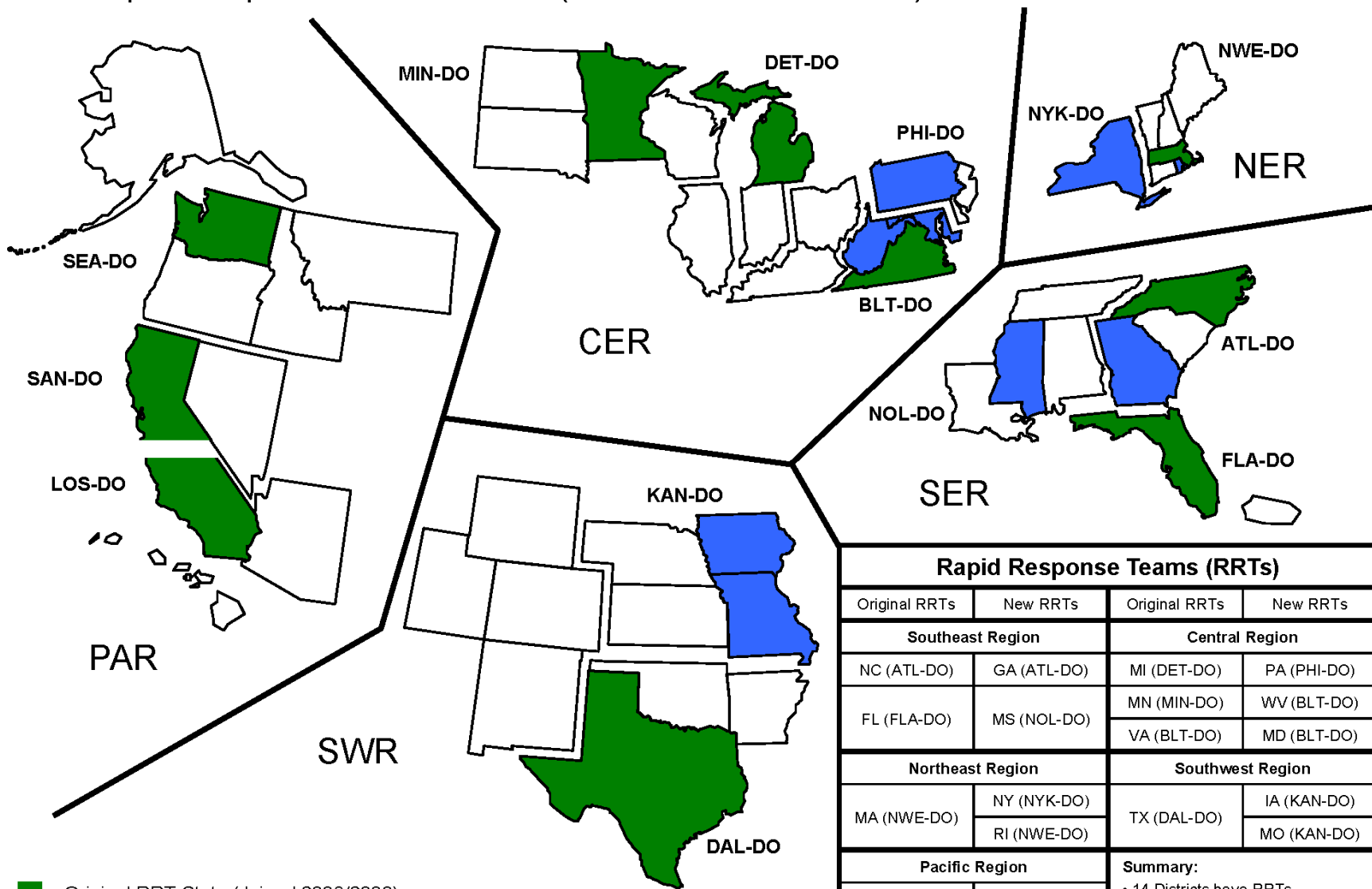
- Shopper cards useful but may have gaps
- Credit card use likely more consistent
- Some retailers can re-print receipts from:
  - CC transaction ID
  - Date
  - Purchase total

# Summary

- Investigational tracebacks have strengths and weaknesses; MN will continue
- Continue to re-evaluate, hone, and reassess exposures
- ***Inter***-disciplinary communication is important: Epi-EH/Regulatory-Lab
- ***Intra***-disciplinary communication is equally important: FDA-State-Local regulatory



# Rapid Response Teams FY13 (2013-2014 Grant Year)



■ = Original RRT State (Joined 2008/2009)  
■ = New RRT State (Joined 2012)

Rapid Response Teams (RRTs)			
Original RRTs	New RRTs	Original RRTs	New RRTs
<b>Southeast Region</b>		<b>Central Region</b>	
NC (ATL-DO)	GA (ATL-DO)	MI (DET-DO)	PA (PHI-DO)
FL (FLA-DO)	MS (NOL-DO)	MN (MIN-DO)	WV (BLT-DO)
		VA (BLT-DO)	MD (BLT-DO)
<b>Northeast Region</b>		<b>Southwest Region</b>	
MA (NWE-DO)	NY (NYK-DO)	TX (DAL-DO)	IA (KAN-DO)
	RI (NWE-DO)		MO (KAN-DO)
<b>Pacific Region</b>		<b>Summary:</b>	
WA (SEA-DO)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 Districts have RRTs</li> <li>• 1 District has 3 RRTs</li> <li>• 3 Districts have 2 RRTs</li> <li>• 10 Districts have 1 RRT</li> </ul>	
CA (LOS-DO & SAN-DO)			