A successful collaboration
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
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Which came first, the chicken or the \( E(\text{gg}). \ coli \)?
The Collaborators

- MDPH WGFIC
  - Epi
  - Lab
  - Food Protection
- Multiple local jurisdictions
- Establishment
The Outbreak

- In the beginning ........
- MDPH notified by LBOH on April 7, 2017
- Initially four college students, avocados?
The initial PFGE analysis

- 7 isolates analyzed by PFGE: indistinguishable
- Xba I and Avr II pattern combination: new to MA
  - EXHX01.6682/EXHA26.3972
The Red Herring: Near match to ongoing national outbreak

- Pattern combination looked nearly indistinguishable to 1702CAEXH-EXHX01.2652/EXHA26.3972
- Epi re-interviewed to ask about soy nut butter consumption.
Meanwhile... The Sequencing

- WGS results became available
The Exposures
The Environmental Inspections
The Locations of CNRG

3 Brick and Mortar Locations

1 Commissary Kitchen

1 Brick and Mortar Location

4 Trucks or Pop Ups
The Use of Social Media

ATTN: All trucks flocking home early today!
#LunchCancelled!
The Inspection Findings & Response

• Food trucks are supplied by the Somerville Commissary; all chicken was prepared and cooked at the Medford Location and then transported to location.

• SISD and MDPH conducted a joint inspection of Somerville Commissary to determine if wholesale licensure was required. Inspections revealed more violations which required correction.

• BISD issued a temporary suspension of permit to CNRG food establishments and prohibited all additional services in Boston (food trucks and pop ups) due to increasing reports of *E. coli* illnesses.

• Medford BOH closed brick and mortar establishment due to critical violations
The Truth is a picture is worth...
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The Mea Culpa

Irvin Co
Haven't had chicken n rice in a while, can't wait for the reopening, I'll be one of the first to grab a plate with full confidence!

1y Like Reply

Nao Rouhana
Love u guys!

1y Like Reply

Kee Pyo Hong
Way to be transparent and responsible!!

1y Like Reply

JoBeth Umali
We know you'll fix it. Best wishes!

1y Like Reply
The Love
The Outbreak

• Final count: 12 confirmed, four probable
• Median age: 25.4 yrs (19-46), 75% male
• Onsets March 30-April 4, 2017 50% hospitalized
• Four food truck locations, one Brick & Mortar, March 26-March 30, 2017

• https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/outbreaknetenhanced/success-stories/massachusetts-outbreak.html
The Future

• Shared Kitchens
• Food Truck Regulators, licensing, inspections
• Local/retail
• State/wholesale
The Acknowledgements

- Boston Public Health Commission
- Boston Inspectional Services
- Somerville Health Department
- Medford Health Department
- CNRG