

Annex 3: Foodborne or Illness Response

Updated: May 2023

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I. Introduction

- A. Food emergencies may be caused by biological/chemical contamination, natural disasters or intentional acts of sabotage and terrorism (e.g., bioterrorism or agroterrorism).
- B. The Tuolumne County Public Health Department and Environmental Health Departments share responsibility for a local investigation of a food emergency. Additionally, law enforcement may be involved if intentional contamination is suspected.
- C. Any investigation would be coordinated with the CDPH (California Department of Public Health) Food and Drug Branch (FDB), as well as multiple State and Federal agencies that regulate wholesale, processed and imported foods as indicated by the situation. (*Contact information, see V.*)
- E. During emergency system activations, all resources, including State and federal assets, should be requested in accordance with Standardized Emergency Management System and the resource management request process in the HEPRP (Resource Management Section).

II. Activation of Emergency Response

- A. The Public Health Local Health Officer (LHO) in response to local healthcare organization reporting, determines the need to initiate an Department Operations Center (DOC) in collaboration with Tuolumne County Office of Emergency Services (OES). The LHO assumes Incident Command and is the designated Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC).
- B. Triggers considered to initiate a Foodborne Illness DOC include:
 - 1. An unusual or unexpected pattern of gastroenteritis, which is identified via day to day surveillance and/or normal reporting processes
 - 2. A rapid increase of incidence as evidenced by medical surge that impacts the local healthcare system
 - 3. Information received from other local Health Departments, CDPH or the CDC that requires a local investigation or response
- C. Reporting a confirmed foodborne event is required by the State of California – Department of Public Health. The Confidentiality Morbidity Report CDPH form 110a is submitted.

Page 2 of the CMR of reportable diseases includes:

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- ☉ ! Diphtheria
- ☉ ! Domoic Acid Poisoning (Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning)
- FAX ☉ ☑ Encephalitis, Specify Etiology: Viral, Bacterial, Fungal, Parasitic
- ☉ ! *Escherichia coli*: shiga toxin producing (STEC) including *E. coli* O157
- † FAX ☉ ☑ Foodborne Disease ←
- Giardiasis

- D. The Environmental Health Department participates with Public Health in the Department Operations Center in defining case criteria and completing investigations.
- E. The Incident Commander ensures local, region and State authorities are notified of the initiation of the DOC in response to the foodborne illness event.
- F. Local response partners are notified by the California Health Alert Network System (CAHAN) of a medical and/or health emergency. An additional communication method may be utilized based on message recipient’s confirmation of the alert. Back up communications include a phone call and fax. (Refer to HEPreP Section 5, Communications Plan)
- F. The Tuolumne County Office of Emergency Services supports the Health Department DOC with resources and integration of other County departments as needed such as law enforcement, communications and transportation.
- G. Tuolumne County Public Health Department roles and contact information for:

Office	Role	Contact
Tuolumne County Public Health		20111 Cedar Rd N. Sonora, CA 95370 Phone: 209-533-7401 FAX: 209-533-7406
Health Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directs and supervises communicable disease reporting • Investigates and follows up unusual events • Consults and provides guidance for providers and healthcare organizations in managing event • Directs Public Health response • Notifies local and state agencies of the event (Situation Report / MHOAC) • 	Phone: 209-533-7401
Communicable Disease (CD) Nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receives phone, fax or electronic communicable disease report from sources, such as laboratory, health facility, and providers. • Coordinates with Health Officer and CDPH Division of Communicable Disease (DCDC) • Submits data to the State online database • Performs investigations 	Phone: 209-533-7401
Director of Public Health Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports and supervises Communicable Disease PHN, is an expert resource • Performs duties of the CD nurse as needed 	Phone: 209-533-7401

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Office	Role	Contact
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans, supports and analyzes PHN epidemiologic investigations 	
Duty Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available 24/7 to activate the Public Health response to a medical and health event or emergency 	Phone: 209-533-8055

- H. Food suppliers, vendors and the public may choose to contact the Environmental Health Department with foodborne illness concerns. Contact information is:

Office	Role	Contact
Tuolumne County Environmental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversees local food processing/storage/distribution of food. Investigates incident related to retail food, including markets, farmers’ markets and restaurants to identify the source and scope of illness. Provides information to the MHOAC Coordinates local response with the CDPH-FDB (Food and Drug Branch) Works with licensed retail food facilities to restore operation 	Environmental Health Department A.N. Francisco Bldg Floors 3 and 4 48 Yaney Ave. Sonora, CA 95370 209 533-5633

IV. Health Care Organization Roles and Responsibilities

- A. During day-to-day patient care delivery, report per regulatory statute. When an unusual or suspicious event occurs, report to the Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC), for early local notification and collaboration in community response.
- Healthcare agencies and providers may call the Health Department with any questions or concerns regarding foodborne illness. The Health Officer will determine if event is managed as ‘day-to-day’ or as an unusual or emergency event.
 - Healthcare Organization reporters may utilize the EM Resource electronic reporting system or the Health Care Situation Report/Resource Request (MHOAC) form submitted by fax. Follow with a confirmation phone call for an urgent situation. This method is also used during an event to update Operational status of the facility/agency.
- B. Protect staff and patients by following guidance as provided from the Health Officer, CDPH or the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- C. Contribute and participate in coordinated risk communication strategies with the public.
- D. Respond to requests from the MHOAC, such as:
- Resource or inventory requests

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2. Operational status

- E. Attend briefings and/or participate in the Multi-Agency-Coordinating (MAC) process

V. California Department of Public Health Roles and Contact Information:

Office	Role	Contact
CDPH Food and Drug Laboratory Branch (FDLB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead State agency for ensuring the safety of foods, beverages, ice, bottle and vended water. • Regulates and ensures food safety through licensing and compliance programs. • Generally, CDPH FDB has primary responsibility for regulating wholesale food facilities (manufactures, processors, distributors, etc.) while LHD/EHDS have responsibility for retail food facilities. 	<p>CDPH Food and Drug Branch HQ 1500 Capitol Avenue MS 7602 PO Box 997435 Sacramento, CA 95899-7435</p> <p>(916) 650-6500 (800) 495-3232 (Consumer Complaint Line) FDB Duty Officer (916) 650-6625</p>
CDPH Division of Communicable Disease Control (DCDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews LHD and EHD reports of epidemiologic investigations of foodborne illness outbreaks. • Coordinates with CDPH FDB in conducting foodborne illness investigations. • Maintains a specialized team to detect, identify, investigate, and control illnesses due to biological terrorist attacks. 	<p>(916) 552-9700 during normal business hours. (call the CDPH Duty Officer Program outside of normal business hours)</p>
CDPH Food and Drug Branch (FDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead agency for ensuring the safety of foods, beverages, ice products, bottled, hauled and vended water • Ensures food safety through licensing and compliance programs in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code, title 17 of the California Code of Regulations 	<p>(916) 650-6500</p> <p>(800) 495-3232 Consumer Complaint Line</p> <p>FDB Duty Officer: (916) 650-6625</p>

California State Warning Center:	(916) 845-8911	warning.center@ops.calema.ca.gov
CDPH Duty Officer	(916) 328-3605	cdphdutyofficer@cdph.ca.gov
EMSA Duty Officer	(916) 553-3470	emsadutyofficer@emsa.ca.gov

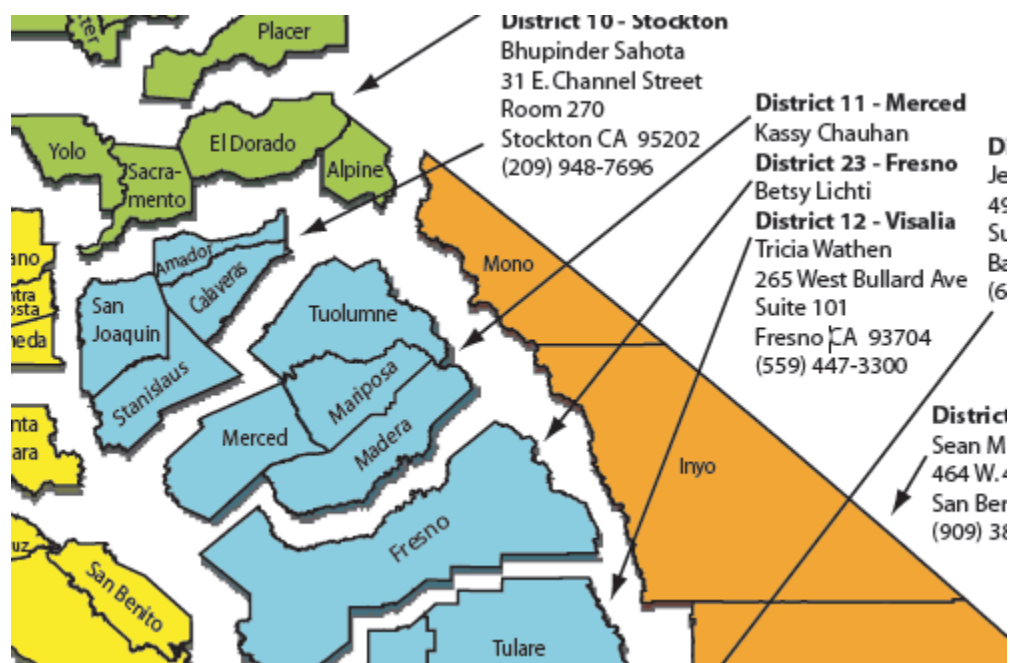
Reference Documents:

Health Emergency Emergency Preparedness Plan (HEPReP)
California Public Health and Medical Emergency Operations Manual

Attachment 1: Public Health Actions in the Event of a Food Recall

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- Step 1. The Health Officer and/or the Director of Environmental Health (EH) receives a food recall alert
- Step 2: The Health Officer consults with the Director of EH to determine roles and responsibilities
- Step 3: The local food supplies, such as grocery stores or restaurants are contacted by phone or visit to ensure the food recall has been received and/or actions taken as directed.
- Step 4: Documentation of actions taken is maintained by the food supplier
- Step 5: Consider whether a local public message (risk communication) should be provided



Northern California, District 11, CDPH Merced Field Operations Branch