



COUNCIL TO IMPROVE **FOODBORNE** OUTBREAK **RESPONSE**

CIFOR is a multidisciplinary collaboration of national associations and local, state, and federal agencies representing epidemiology, environmental health, public health laboratories, and regulatory agencies involved in foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak response. Since 2006, CIFOR has worked together to improve methods to detect, investigate, control, and prevent foodborne disease outbreaks. The food industry is represented in the CIFOR Industry Workgroup.

**FREE RESOURCES FOR
FOODBORNE OUTBREAK
RESPONSE AVAILABLE AT
WWW.CIFOR.US**

CIFOR CO-CHAIR ORGANIZATIONS

- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
- National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

CIFOR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO)
- Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)
- National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV)
- National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)

“Boulder County Public Health’s Food Safety Program is enrolled in the FDA’s Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards, which directs programs to have a “systematic approach in place for the detection, investigation, response, documentation and analysis of alleged food-related incidents.” For that reason, our program has relied heavily on the CIFOR Guidelines for the development of our policies and procedures. We will continue to look to the CIFOR Guidelines to see how we can improve our program.”

– BOULDER COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF MEMBER

CIFOR Guidelines for Foodborne Disease Outbreak Response and its Associated Toolkit

The CIFOR Guidelines for Foodborne Disease Outbreak Response serve as a comprehensive source of information on foodborne disease outbreak investigation and control for state and local health agencies. The Guidelines describe the overall approach to addressing foodborne disease outbreaks, including preparation, detection, investigation, control and follow-up, and the roles of key organizations in foodborne disease outbreaks.

Designed to aid in the implementation of the Guidelines, CIFOR created a companion CIFOR Toolkit that contains a series of worksheets and “keys to success” (model program activities). The CIFOR Toolkit helps state and local health departments understand the contents of the Guidelines, furthers their ability to conduct self-assessments of their outbreak detection and investigation procedures, and facilitates implementation of appropriate recommendations from the nine chapters in the Guidelines.

“The CIFOR Toolkit has been a prominent and indispensable tool used by the Minnesota Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence. Specifically, we facilitated CIFOR Toolkit exercises in three states to bring together laboratorians, epidemiologists, public health nurses, and environmental health specialists to critically evaluate and plan improvements to their surveillance and response efforts. The CIFOR Toolkit was the essential framework that guided these discussions.”

– MINNESOTA CENTER OF EXCELLENCE MEMBER

“The work completed at our CIFOR Toolkit Workshop will improve Nebraska’s ability to respond quickly to foodborne outbreaks, thereby reducing the number of cases of foodborne illness.”

– LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF MEMBER

CIFOR Tools and Resources

CIFOR Food Safety Clearinghouse

An online repository of foodborne disease outbreak investigation and general food safety resources that state and local professionals have found to be helpful.

CIFOR Foodborne Illness Response Guidelines for Owners, Operators and Managers of Food Establishments (Industry Guidelines)

These guidelines help outline, clarify, and explain the recommended role of the retail food industry in foodborne disease outbreak investigations.

CIFOR Complaint Systems

Generalized guidelines for implementing foodborne illness complaint systems.

CIFOR Outbreaks of Undetermined Etiology (OUE) Guidelines

The CIFOR OUE guidelines provide universal recommendations for collecting, shipping, testing, and retaining foodborne outbreak specimens when an etiology is undetermined, even early in an investigation.

Economic Evaluation of PulseNet

A peer-reviewed study that estimates the health and economic impacts associated with PulseNet.

CIFOR Metrics Project

Model performance criteria that promote a common understanding of the key elements of foodborne surveillance, outbreak investigation, and control activities.

CIFOR Law Project

A 2013 analysis of foodborne disease surveillance and investigation laws in select states. Also includes tools to help agencies improve their legal preparedness to conduct surveillance for foodborne diseases and respond to outbreaks.

