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.

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)

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

“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.

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.