



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

October 3, 2003

Mr. Patrick J. McConnon, M.P.H. Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) 2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 303 Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4015

Dear Mr. McConnon:

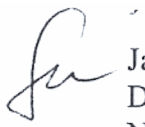
Thank you for your letter forwarding the positions statements, adopted by CSTE in 2003.

Enclosed are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) responses to the CSTE Position Statements sent to the National Center for Infectious Diseases. These responses have also been sent to you via electronic mail.

We look forward to continued collaboration with CSTE regarding public health issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

~uq/ '



James M. Hughes, M.D.
Director
National Center for Infectious Diseases

Enclosures

National Center for Infectious Diseases Comments

CSTE POSITION STATEMENT: #03-ID-OI

TITLE: *Listeria* Case Surveillance

Statement of desired action(s) to be taken:

CSTE recommends:

1. Prompt routine interviewing of all patients with culture-confirmed listeriosis using a standardized questionnaire that is developed in conjunction with CDC and the CSTE Food Safety Committee.
2. Prompt referral of *Listeria* isolates from clinical laboratories to state public health laboratories, and prompt sub typing of *Listeria* isolates by state PulseNet laboratories
3. That CDC continues to advocate for funds to assist the states in achieving these outcomes

CDC Comments:

CDC is pleased to hear that Position Statement 03- ID-O I, , *Listeria* case surveillance' , was approved by the CSTE administrative committee in June, 2003. To facilitate the goals of the Position Statement, we have been working closely with groups of epidemiologists from Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet) sites and the CSTE Food Safety committee to develop a standard case survey form. We anticipate that a draft form will be submitted to CSTE members for review shortly. In addition, the Association of Public Health Laboratories has endorsed the actions stated in the Position Statement and will assist state laboratories to achieve prompt sub typing of *Listeria* isolates by state PulseNet laboratories. Prospective interviewing of all patients with listeriosis with a standardized case form that includes questions about consumption of high-risk food, together with swift subtyping of *Listeria* isolates through PulseNet, will facilitate prompt outbreak investigations and the identification and recall of contaminated foods; thus reducing infection due to *Listeria* in the United States.