



# **FDA's Food Safety Transformation:** ***Building on Epidemiology and Partnerships***

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# Summary

- Historic juncture on food safety
- Paradigm shift to science-based, system-wide prevention
- FDA's program in transformation
- Essential role of epidemiology
- Essential role of food safety partnerships

# Historic Juncture on Food Safety

- Consensus on need for and direction of food safety reform
  - Risk-based prevention
  - Comprehensive, farm-to-table approach
  - Integrated national system
- White House support for improving food safety
- Congress working on bi-partisan legislation

# IOM Food Safety Report

- Released today: *Enhancing Food Safety: The Role of the Food and Drug Administration*
- Embraces consensus direction
- Focus on data-driven, risk-based approaches to preventing illness
- Provides input on how to get there, including need to strengthen risk-ranking tools, data and analytical capacity



# FDA's Food Safety Transformation

- FDA acting to implement change
- New leadership structure to unify and elevate program
  - Deputy Commissioner for Foods
  - Executive Leadership Team
- One Mission, One Program Initiative, to design
  - New regulatory policy and strategy
  - FDA infrastructure – science, IT, resource planning
  - Federal-state integration

# Epidemiology's Many Roles

- Identifying and ranking significant hazards
- Detecting, investigating and containing outbreaks
- Learning from outbreaks to inform prevention
- Measuring progress on food safety

***FDA working to enhance all roles***

# Success Depends on Partnership and Capacity Building

- FDA-CDC-USDA collaboration at all time high
- State and local partnership and capacity serve important national interests
  - Generating data for risk ranking and metrics
  - Investigating outbreaks
  - Learning from outbreaks
- FDA and CDC recognize duty to help strengthen state and local capacity, by
  - Fostering standardized methods
  - Providing resources
  - Supporting training

# **FDA's Role as a Partner**

- Continue supporting lab capacity
- Continue funding rapid response teams
- Invest in capacity for follow-up investigations
- Collaborate with states in educating policymakers
- Work with CDC on funding initiatives for state epi



# New FDA Focus on Outbreaks

- Stepping up effort on all aspects:
  - Preparedness
  - Response
  - Learning
- New senior position: Chief Medical Officer and Director of Outbreak Investigation and Response
- New Foodborne Outbreak Team: a multi-disciplinary and dedicated core of experts
- Commitment to collaboration

# Conclusion

- FDA is embracing epidemiology as central to its food safety program
- FDA has a strong interest in state and local capacity
- FDA wants to build stronger partnerships with state and local epidemiologists

***Thank You!***