

Methods for Hypothesis Generation during Multistate Foodborne Disease Outbreak Investigations

Sunday, June 3, 2012 – Half Day

CSTE, in collaboration with CDC is offering a hands-on workshop on the methods for hypothesis generation during multistate foodborne disease outbreak investigations. Successful hypothesis development is an iterative and dynamic process; when exposure to a food is suspected, the investigators next must consider the large number of foods that may be the source or vehicle of infection. Due to the vast number of food items, the investigation needs to narrow the list to the foods that the ill people actually ate before they got sick and then further narrow it to the specific foods that many of the ill people remember eating. Epidemiologists interview ill persons to determine where and what they ate in the days or weeks before they got sick. This half-day workshop will discuss using descriptive epidemiology, standardized questionnaires, and patient interviewing techniques, focusing on approaches to open-ended interviewing in order to generate hypotheses that explain the source of infections. The workshop is targeted to state and local epidemiologists involved with foodborne disease outbreak response as well as students.

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