

APPENDIX B.

Sample Format of Food and Waterborne Illness Investigation Policies and Procedures

- I. **Purpose:** To establish a uniform procedure for administering the food and waterborne illness surveillance and investigation program.
- II. **Scope:** The procedure applies to all Environmental Health/Nursing/Epidemiology staff. The county health department food and waterborne illness investigation team investigates food and waterborne illnesses to verify diagnosis, to investigate appropriate preventive/control measures, and to prevent recurrence of similar episodes.

III. References

1. ss. 509.032(2)d & 509.035(1)a, F.S.
2. s. 381.006(10), F.S.
3. s. 64D-3.002(1) & 64D-3.013(3), (5), (7) & 64D-3.014, F.A.C.
4. Interagency Agreement Between The Department of Business and Professional Regulation and The Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (still in effect) – This agreement clarifies the duties and responsibilities of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) with regard to conducting epidemiological investigations in public food service establishments licensed by DBPR. (See Appendix N)
5. Control of Communicable Diseases Manual, 17th Edition, 2000
James Chin, MD, MPH, Editor
American Public Health Association
1015 Fifteenth Street
Washington, DC 20005
6. Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Illness, 5th Edition, 1999
Prepared by the Committee on Communicable Diseases Affecting Man, Food Subcommittee
International Association of Milk, Food and Environmental Sanitarians, Inc. (IAMFES)
P.O. Box 701
Ames, Iowa 50010
7. Procedures to Investigate Waterborne Illness, 2nd Edition, 1996
Prepared by the Committee on Communicable Diseases Affecting Man, Food Subcommittee
International Association of Milk, Food and Environmental Sanitarians, Inc. (IAMFES)
P.O. Box 701
Ames, Iowa 50010

IV. Definitions

1. Foodborne illness outbreak - An outbreak is an incident in which two or more persons have the same disease, have similar symptoms, or excrete the same pathogens; and there is a time, place, and/or person association between these persons. A foodborne disease outbreak is one in which a common food has been ingested by such persons. Nevertheless,

DOHM 150-4 (1-8-2002)

a single case of suspected botulism, mushroom poisoning, ciguatera or paralytic shellfish poisoning, other rare disease, or a case of a disease that can be definitely related to ingestion of a food, can be considered an incident of foodborne illness and warrants further investigation.

2. Waterborne illness outbreak - An outbreak is an incident in which two or more persons have the same disease, have similar clinical features, or have the same pathogen, and there is a time, place, or person association among these persons. A waterborne outbreak is traceable to ingestion of contaminated water or ice or contact with contaminated water. A single case of a disease, however, is considered an incident of waterborne illness if there is evidence that the ill person ingested or contacted contaminated water. As such, the situation warrants further investigation. Waterborne methemoglobinemia in an infant who resides in a rural area having a high concentration of nitrates in well water is an example of a single case of waterborne illness due to ingestion. Primary amebic meningoencephalitis in a person who swam in a farm pond is an example of a single incident related to water contact.

V. Responsibilities

Primary responsibilities for this program rests with the designated food and waterborne illness surveillance and investigation team consisting of a staff member each from Environmental Health, Nursing, and Epidemiology.

VI. CHD Protocol

Continue with written CHD protocol. Your regional food and waterborne disease epidemiologist can be asked for assistance at any time during a food or waterborne disease complaint or outbreak investigation.