



# Centered on *Food Safety*

Winter 2022 Newsletter

## HIGHLIGHTING PRODUCTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE INTEGRATED FOOD SAFETY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

CDC has designated five Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence (CoEs) each comprising a state health department and affiliated university partners. The Centers are Colorado, Minnesota, New York, Tennessee and Washington. The Centers work together to identify model practices in foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak response and to serve as resources to assist other state and local public health professionals in implementing these practices.

### New Product: Outbreak Source Prediction Tool

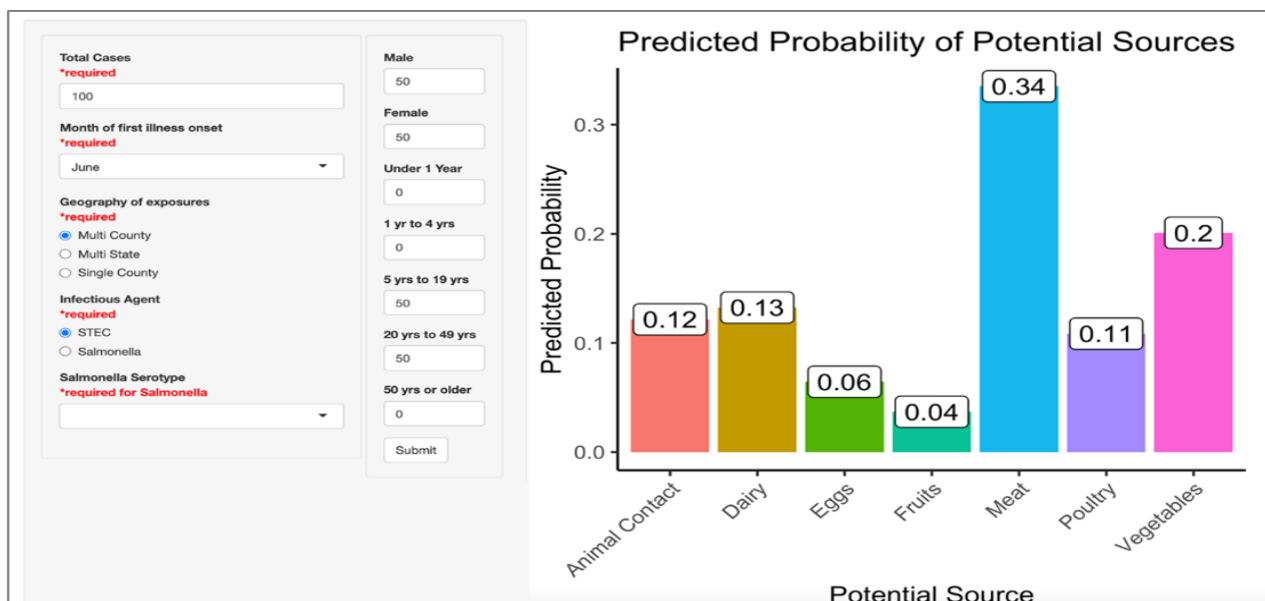
#### Colorado CoE

A vehicle prediction tool for hypothesis generation during outbreak investigations.

Hypothesis generation about potential food vehicles and other exposures is a critical step in an enteric disease outbreak investigation. Historical outbreak data are a rich source of information for hypothesis generation, providing data on common food- and animal-pathogen pairs and other epidemiologic trends. The Colorado CoE developed a tool to predict vehicles for STEC and *Salmonella* outbreaks using demographic and outbreak characteristics from outbreaks reported to CDC. The results have been incorporated into a free, publicly available online tool (available [here](#)) that can be used by investigators to provide data-driven hypotheses about outbreak vehicles as part of ongoing investigations. The tool should be used for hypothesis generation along with other resources. The results will also be published in a forthcoming issue of Foodborne Pathogens and Disease.

Link to the Outbreak Source Prediction Tool: <https://coe-foodsafety.shinyapps.io/OutbreakSourceAttribution/>.

For feedback or questions on the tool, contact Alice White, [alice.white@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:alice.white@cuanschutz.edu)



# CoE Virtual Training Opportunities

The covid-19 pandemic necessitated shifts in professional development and training formats. As a result the virtual learning environment has become the new norm. To meet the needs of the influx of new public health staff that require training but are still unable to travel or meet in-person the Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence have been working to promote exiting virtual trainings and develop new educational opportunities for the growing workforce.

## Tennessee CoE

The Tennessee Integrated Center of Excellence offers an online training in foodborne outbreak detection and response. It is a seven-course series focused on foodborne investigations and team development. The series is an asynchronous learning course that allows individuals to complete the courses on their own schedule. In addition to the online courses, there are four tabletop exercises for teams to complete. In response to the current need for remote learning opportunities, the Tennessee CoE is piloting facilitating these exercises virtually with a select number of states. After the pilot project is complete, we will collaborate with participants to identify any needed virtual classroom revisions with the goal to fully transition the series' exercises to a virtual environment.

For more information on this project please contact Siobhan Dodds at [siobhan.dodds@tn.gov](mailto:siobhan.dodds@tn.gov).

**Activity:**  
Communication Procedures



**Activity:**  
Initial Interview Training



Oregon Department of Health Just-in-time Interviewer Training video - [https://youtu.be/HN2m7z\\_EUw](https://youtu.be/HN2m7z_EUw)

**Activity:**  
Case Study



**Activity:**  
Response Plan Review



## New York CoE

The New York Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence (NY CoE) has developed two resources aimed to assist with training of public health epidemiology (Epi) and environmental health (EH) professionals involved in enteric outbreak surveillance and response. The NY CoE Epi Trainings Toolkit and NY CoE EH Trainings Toolkit are targeted to entry and intermediate level staff; this includes staff who would benefit from refresher trainings or are being cross-trained. Each toolkit, designed to provide easy access to resources for epidemiologists and EH professionals who investigate enteric disease clusters. Both toolkits can be directly accessed at <https://nyfoodsafety.cals.cornell.edu/resources/ny-coe-toolkits/>.

FIND US ONLINE	
CDC	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/centers/">http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/centers/</a>
Colorado	<a href="http://www.cofoodsafety.org/">http://www.cofoodsafety.org/</a>
Minnesota	<a href="http://mnfoodsafetycoe.umn.edu/">http://mnfoodsafetycoe.umn.edu/</a>
New York	<a href="http://nyfoodsafety.cals.cornell.edu/">http://nyfoodsafety.cals.cornell.edu/</a>
Tennessee	<a href="http://foodsafety.utk.edu/">http://foodsafety.utk.edu/</a>
Washington	<a href="http://foodsafety.uw.edu/">http://foodsafety.uw.edu/</a>



**NY CoE EH Trainings Toolkit**  
*Resources for EH staff who investigate enteric disease clusters*

**NY CoE Epi Trainings Toolkit**  
*Resources for Epi staff who investigate enteric disease clusters*

Last updated 12/2021

**Molecular Epidemiology and Sequencing Approaches in Public Health**  
<https://nyfoodsafety.cals.cornell.edu/molecular-epidemiology/>  
 These online molecular epidemiology trainings were developed through a collaboration with the CDC and the CDC Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence. This project is a multi-pronged approach to deliver training on whole genome sequencing (WGS) to health department and agriculture department staff who use WGS data for foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak investigations. The training includes four online modules that provide foundational knowledge on WGS, and four webinars on basic genomic principles.

**Whole Genome Sequencing for Laboratories and Epidemiologists Live Learning Series**  
<https://nyfoodsafety.cals.cornell.edu/training/whole-genome-sequencing-laboratories-and-epidemiologists-live-learning-series/>  
 The Whole Genome Sequencing for Laboratories and Epidemiologists Live Learning Series is targeted towards laboratory-epidemiologist teams (from the New York and Colorado Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence regions) with a focus on WGS workflow, basics on Bioinformatics resources and use of case studies to illustrate pathogen thresholds, cluster identification and resource prioritization.

**wgMLST Student Activity**  
<https://nyfoodsafety.cals.cornell.edu/training/wgmlst-activity/>  
 The New York Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence developed this activity to provide public health staff and students of public health with an understanding of how whole genome sequencing and whole genome multi locus sequence typing functions as a subtyping model.

**Epi Ready Team Training: Foodborne Illness Response Strategies**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/2017/04/2017-04-20-epi-ready-team-training.html>  
 \*Review of PowerPoint slides (for sections of interest) may be useful.  
 The Epi Ready course is a team-based training for public health professionals involved in foodborne disease outbreak investigations. Coordinated by the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) and funded by CDC, it is a two day, in-person training. Epi Ready focuses on how to efficiently and effectively respond to a foodborne disease outbreak using a "team-based" approach, bringing together the disciplines involved in the investigation of these outbreaks (i.e., environmental health specialists/sanitarian, epidemiologists, laboratorians, and public health nurses).

Last updated 8/2021

**Approaches in Public Health**  
<https://nyfoodsafety.cals.cornell.edu/eh-trainings-toolkit/>  
 These were developed through a collaboration with the Centers of Excellence. This project is a multi-pronged approach to deliver training on whole genome sequencing (WGS) to health department and agriculture department staff who use WGS data for foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak investigations. The training includes four online modules that provide foundational basic genomic principles.

**Food Facilities**  
<https://nyfoodsafety.cals.cornell.edu/eh-trainings-toolkit/#/food-facilities>  
 The New York Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence and its partners are responsible for collecting environmental samples in food facilities.  
<https://nyfoodsafety.cals.cornell.edu/eh-trainings-toolkit/#/environmental-sampling/environmental-health-quick>  
 The New York Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence is environmental investigation trainings and to provide support for:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umk\\_Su2JrWk&list=PLVBoC5eRfRn8B0tM4yEiKndex2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umk_Su2JrWk&list=PLVBoC5eRfRn8B0tM4yEiKndex2)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5paM7XG0RE&list=PLVBoC5eRfRn8B0tM4yEiKndex3>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5paM7XG0RE&list=PLVBoC5eRfRn8B0tM4yEiKndex4>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5paM7XG0RE&list=PLVBoC5eRfRn8B0tM4yEiKndex5>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5paM7XG0RE&list=PLVBoC5eRfRn8B0tM4yEiKndex6>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5paM7XG0RE&list=PLVBoC5eRfRn8B0tM4yEiKndex7>