

Introduction to Epidemiology

Presented by:

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What is Epi?

- The study of factors affecting the health and illness of populations

What Epi's Do

- Outbreak investigations
- Vectorborne diseases
- Flu Surveillance
- Death Surveillance
- Statistical analysis and reports

Outbreaks

- Two or more unrelated persons sharing a common exposure
- What that means
 - Two or more unrelated complaints on an establishment
 - Large groups
 - Weddings, conferences, parties, etc.
 - Family gatherings (more than one household with no prior contact (at least a week) before meal)

Environmental Services Role

- The eyes and ears in the field
- Inspections
- Food sample collection
- Interface with food workers and establishment
- Intake interviews for complaints

The Epi Role

- Detailed interviews
 - Large groups
- Food analysis
 - Suspect foods
- Stool specimen collection
 - Pathogen identification
- Reporting
 - CDC

When Should You Call An Epi?

- 2 or more complaints on the same establishment
 - In a short amount of time (2 weeks is a good rule of thumb)
- Large groups
- More than one household involved
- Anytime you have a question!

What Epi Will Do

- Interviews for large outbreaks
- Food analysis – pinpoint a suspect food
 - Be warned, this takes some time
- Specimen collection for pathogen ID
- Liaison with other agencies
 - Other counties, states, federal

What We Need

- Complaints that turn out to be outbreaks
- Contact lists for large groups
- Menu information
- Inspection results
- Inspection report (for inclusion in final report)
- Eyes in the establishment pinpointing issues to be addressed

Questions?

Questions please
contact Food Defense
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