Group Tabletop Exercise: Outbreak!

This tabletop exercise is conducted in concert with colleagues at the Maryland Department of Health. The original version was developed by Institute of Food Technologies and FDA CFSAN Food Defense Oversight Committee, and was significantly modified by the MDH SMarRRT and then adapted for use in this course.

Objectives:
- Network, make new connections
- Understand the roles of Multiple Agencies
- Analyze a scenario
- Evaluate regulations, procedures, accountability, COC
- Practice response to a rapidly evolving event
- Identify areas of strengths and weaknesses in multi-agency responses, communication and collaboration

You have been assigned to a group, and you represent a key stakeholder in the Outbreak exercise. Please read the scenario provided to everyone and access the additional information provided ONLY to your group. This information page includes motivation questions for discussion among you and your group members. Please connect with your group (Zoom, CoursePlus, email, etc.) to discuss the information you have and then prepare a group report (one report submitted per group) summarizing, i.e. “Reporting Out” the information that is provided only to your group. This group report, which can be short (1-2 paragraphs, about half a page), should be a sentence about your stakeholder group (what the mission or scope of the stakeholder group is), a brief summary of your main findings and a sentence or two about your conclusions from the information you have received. Your report will be posted to CoursePlus.

Timeline:
**Friday, July 24**: Information available, group work begins  
**July 24-28**: Check the CoursePlus website for social media and other “news” related to the outbreak  
**Wednesday, July 29**: Please have a group representative submit your group report by 11:59pm EDT  
**Friday, July 31**, 1:30pm EDT: “Live” Zoom session to go through the reports, please assign a group member to provide a verbal report; the written reports will be posted to CoursePlus. Maryland DOH representatives will be on the Zoom and will provide a panel Q&A at the end.

Rules of Play
- Open Low-Stress, Non-public Environment
- Be Nice or Go Home
- Listen and Respect Other Viewpoints
- Suspend Disbelief
- Believe it or not THIS COULD HAPPEN

**PLEASE EMBRACE THE SCENARIO**
The Scenario

**Day 1:** Multiple illnesses being reported by MD health care providers, foodborne illness is suspected. Farmers begin reporting unusually high incidence of illness and deaths in cows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example human case:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14-year old male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-day history of general malaise, vomiting and diarrhea, headaches, excessive salivation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example animal case:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-year old dairy cow in peak lactation (high milk production)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-feed in the morning (didn’t eat), had convulsions and died suddenly in the afternoon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Day 2:** Human and animal illnesses continue to be reported.

**Human:** 40% of human illnesses from initial reports associated with several schools in the same local school system that provides lunches to students.

**Animal:** 50% of dead animals came from Farm A, a dairy farm. A letter was received by Farm A containing white powder. Farm A has a bottling plant for their own milk and they also bottle juice. Dead cows shipped by Farm A to Rufus Rendering (RR).

See CoursePlus for social media information that will come out throughout the week:

![Image](https://example.com/foodborne-illness)

**Day 3:** Facility inspections at Farm A and RR. Farm A and RR temporary cease production, distribution. Request distribution list of firms receiving product from RR: Green Valley Feed, Conroy Animal Nutrients received products. Collecting documents to identify pet food facilities that may have received ingredients from Green Valley & Conroy.
**Group Exercise**

- Review the information you have (different for each group) and understand the role of your stakeholder group in the outbreak response/investigation.
- Identify the key findings that need to be presented.
- Prepare a brief written group report (one report submitted per group) using the MS Word template provided. One person in the group should submit this report on behalf of the entire group to the Dropbox.
- Assign a speaker to provide a 30-60 second verbal report out of the most important findings during the Zoom; if no one can attend the Zoom, your written report will be read by a TA or moderator.
- Be prepared to provide additional information if requested by other groups during the Zoom.