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Session of the Codex Committee on

# FOOD HYGIENE



# Guidance document on the management of foodborne outbreaks



# Draft Guidelines for the management of Biological Foodborne Outbreaks

Chaired by Denmark and co-chaired by the European Union and Chile

Purpose:

To provide guidance on the management of foodborne outbreaks.

Address preparedness, detection, response and recovery with the intent of limiting the extent of such events. The scope is limited to biological hazards.

Provide a supplement and a link to documents developed by FAO/WHO and Codex texts, as appropriate.

Define the role of competent authorities and collaboration with food business operators and other stakeholders during foodborne outbreaks

Overall goal:

- Limit public health impact
- Reduce economic consequences (e.g. recalls, trade restrictions)
- Ensure clear communication (consumers, press, trade partners etc.)

# Timeline – work done

2017

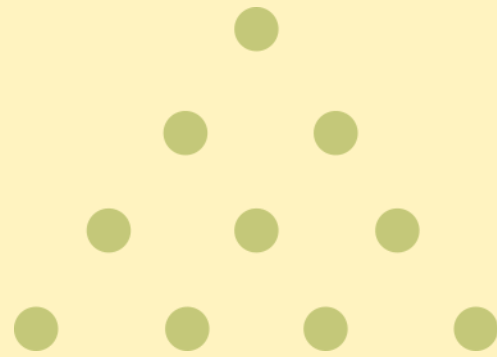
CCFH49: The EU presented a project document. It was decided as new work. Approved by CAC41 in 2018.

2018

A draft was presented and discussed at the CCFH50. Key issues were

- the scope
- rapid risk assessment or outbreak assessment
- references to and overlap with existing WHO and FAO publications.

Returned to the WG at step 2 and an eWG was established.



# Timeline – work done

2019

An electronic working group was convened. In total 31 member countries, 1 member organisations and 4 observer organisations signed up for the eWG. Comments were recieved from 14 countries.

Questions:

- References to WHO publication?
- Inclusion of templates as examples in Annex?
- A graphical structure of interactions between networks both nationally and internationally?

At CCFH51 key issues were references to WHO/FAO documents and Annexes. The draft was forwarded to CAC43 for adoption at Step 5.



# Timeline – work done

## 2020

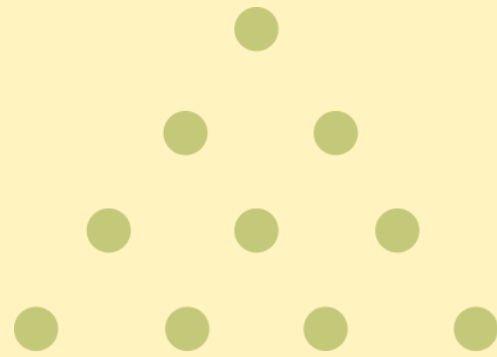
CCFH52 was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Deadline for comments was also postponed.

## 2021

A circular letter (CL 2021//04/OCS-FH) was issued to request comments at Step 6

A revised draft was developed based on comments received and circulated in the October 2021 through circular letter (CL 2021/72/OCCS/FH) with a deadline for commenting 8 January 2022.

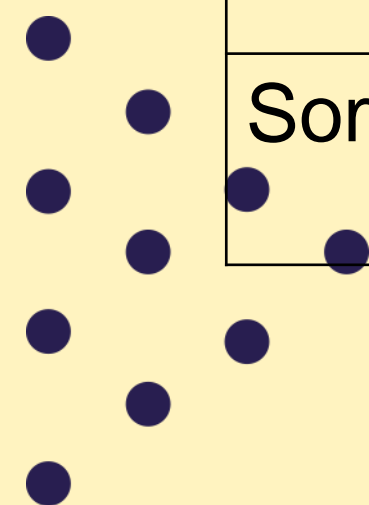
Based on comments from the second round of commenting, the chairs have prepared a new draft to be considered by CCFH52 – CRD2.



# Comments and action taken

Comments from 20 member countries, 1 member organization(EU) and 1 observer.

TYPE OF COMMENTS	ACTION TAKEN IN CRD2
<p>Most comments were editorial or proposing clarifying wording or elaborating the text</p>	<p>Throughout the document corrections, editorial changes and additions have been included, all in tracked changes</p> <p>Note: Title changed from “Guidance” to “Guidelines” for consistency with usual terminology used in Codex</p>
<p>Definitions have been discussed in detail during the eWG and at the CCFH51 and were agreed upon at the CCFH51. Comments that are editorial or enhance readability were accepted.</p> <p>New definitions were considered, with the approach to include if there was an obvious need. No new definitions were included.</p> <p>Substantial comments were considered, with the approach to include if there was an obvious need. No substantial comments were included. A justification was provided for each comment that did not result in a revision of the draft.</p>	<p>No substantial changes have been made</p>
<p>Some comments were translation issues</p>	<p>Shared with translation teams to facilitate accuracy of final translation</p>



# Conclusion and recommendation

The CCFH52 is invited to consider the draft guidance on the management of biological foodborne outbreaks – CRD2.

In the opinion of the chairs and based on the comments received in the previous two rounds, there doesn't seem to be key issues to discuss or major conflicts.

The chairs consider the document to be in an advanced step in the procedure and recommend that the draft guideline on the management of foodborne outbreaks is forwarded to CAC for adoption at step 8.





Thank you!

