



Centered on *Food Safety*

FALL 2020 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.

What's New in Enterics during the era of COVID-19

Hello enteric disease investigators and friends! In these crazy COVID times, we know it's been hard keeping up with anything else. In case you have been wondering what's happening in enterics (or maybe just need a short break from COVID?), the CoEs have compiled a list of highlights.

Surveillance for enteric diseases has been impacted by COVID-19

Nationally, PulseNet uploads of *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, and *Listeria* are lower in 2020 than expected compared to previous years (source: PulseNet). States generally report decreases or delays in PulseNet testing or sequencing (source: informal survey during Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases Quarterly August call). Similarly, FoodNet sites have also seen a decrease in cases, although there may be reporting limitations that have yet to be evaluated (source: preliminary FoodNet data).

In CoE states, there has been a 31-39% decrease in the number of reported cases in 2020 (Jan-Jul) compared to the same period last year, which differs across pathogens; in MN, *Salmonella* and STEC cases decreased by 19%, while *Campylobacter* cases were down by 32%. TN has seen a 41% decrease in STEC and 33% decrease in *Salmonella*. Across all CoE states, April had the fewest cases reported compared to last year (46-69%) but cases have been increasing again over the summer months. (source: preliminary 2020 surveillance data, CO, MN, TN).

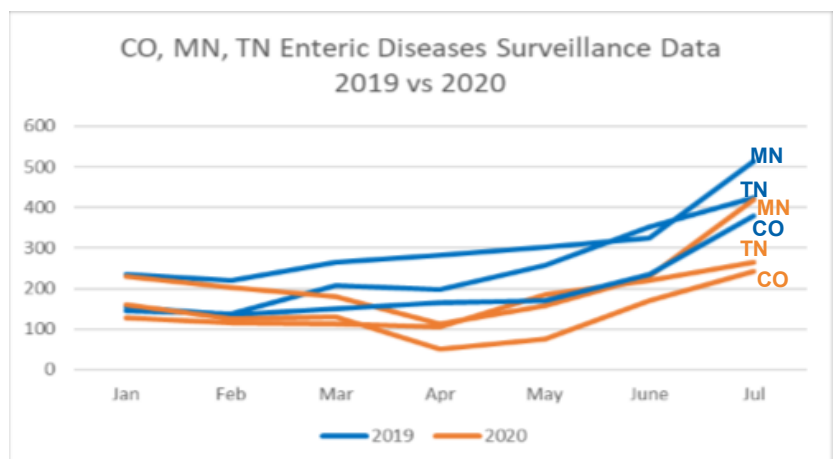
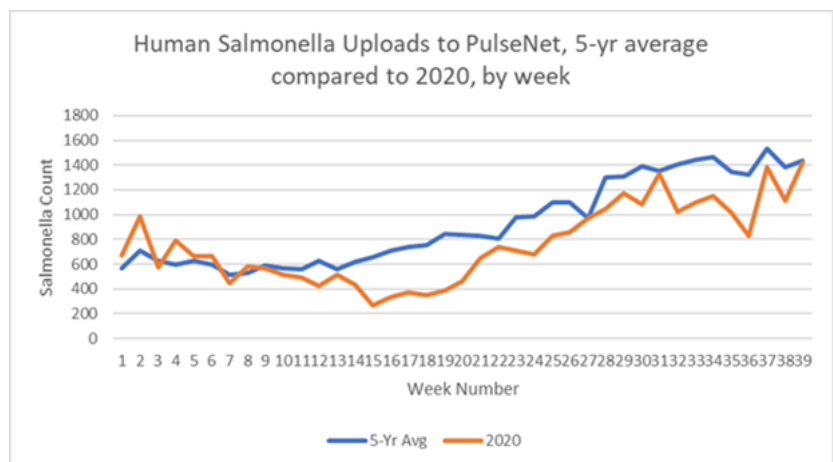
Current or Recent Multi-State Outbreaks

[Salmonella Enteritidis infections linked to peaches](#)

[Salmonella Newport infections linked to onions](#)

[Salmonella infections linked to backyard poultry](#)

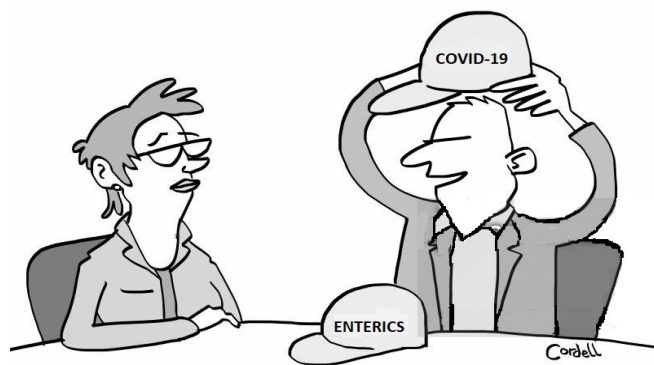
[Salmonella Stanley infections linked to wood ear mushrooms](#)



Capacity for routine enteric disease work has been impacted by COVID-19 in every state

During an informal poll on the August DFWED Quarterly Call, 68% of respondents indicated more than half of staff that would be normally focus on enteric disease were currently diverted to COVID-19 response (44% said over 75% of staff). 52% of respondents indicated they were still able to interview cases of enteric disease, and 21% indicated they could not maintain normal interviewing protocols.

The Outbreak Response and Prevention Branch (ORPB) is offering assistance for multi-state outbreak interviews as they are able. States can contact outbreakresponse@cdc.gov to request assistance.



"Excuse me a moment, whilst I just change hats."

Whole Genome Sequencing updates

Many PulseNet labs are reporting delays in WGS as a result of COVID-19 activities and a small number have had to temporarily suspend or limit WGS. PulseNet participants are encouraged to contact the PulseNet inbox (pulsenet@cdc.gov) if they are unable to sequence PulseNet organisms.

SEDRIC is migrating to a new platform. Four identical 2-hour training sessions will be offered to help orient users to new updates, functionalities, and tools. Please contact SEDRIC@cdc.gov with any questions.

Year (3/1 - 8/21)	WGS total (Salmonella + E.coli/ Shigella + Campy + LM)	Percent Change from Previous Year
2018	21363	64.5%
2019	24715	15.7%
2020	23174	-6.6%

Tools & Resources

Wondering how to prioritize clusters? Check out [MN's Key Points](#)

New hires in enteric disease? Start with the [CoE Core Competencies for Epidemiologists who Investigate Foodborne Outbreaks](#) and [TN's Foodborne Outbreak Investigation web modules](#). Other helpful trainings for new hires or returning staff are NY's [WGS modules and webinars](#) and Environmental Health Investigation/Sampling [Quick Train Videos](#)



New contact tracers in need of more interview training? Contact your regional CoE for more information

Considering online surveys for case investigations? Check out [CO's Mobile Health Project](#)

Getting questions from industry about COVID-19 and food safety? Check out [NY's COVID-19 Resources for the Food Industry](#).

New—WA CoE Webinar Series: The WA CoE will be hosting a 3 part webinar series for new and returning staff offering tools and perspectives based on the latest research and practices in foodborne outbreak investigations. [Register here](#).

UPDATE: CoE All Products Website

In November 2019 the CoE's announced the redevelopment of the CoE All Products Website. As we close out 2020 we wanted to provide an update.

Currently the CoE All Products website is still unavailable. All products can be found at individual CoE websites. The anticipated launch of the revised website is **August 2021**. Please look for more updates in upcoming newsletters

Did you like this update, or have other ideas for resources CoEs might be able to help with? [Provide feedback here](#).

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