

Problems

Any suspected or confirmed report of food poisoning.

Action

1. Request line listing of all exposed persons both ill and well.
2. Obtain the following information.
 - A. Name, address, and telephone number of patient(s).
 - B. Name, address, and telephone number of reporting party.
 - C. Number of persons involved.
 - D. Symptoms of patient(s), including date and time of onset.
 - E. Date and time of suspected exposure.
 - F. Availability of food specimen.
 - G. Has medical attention been sought? If yes, name and telephone number of physician and/or hospital.
3. If patient complains of unusual or severe symptoms, advise patient to seek medical attention.
4. Advise those in possession of any suspect food(s) or drink to refrigerate, but not freeze specimens in separate containers. Tupperware type containers are preferable.
5. If foodborne outbreak involves a food establishment, Duty Officer must notify Environmental Health.
6. If warranted by the magnitude of the outbreak or if assistance is needed, contact the Second Call Duty Officer.
7. Refer to “Guidelines for Identifying Possible Causative Agent of Food Borne Disease Outbreak to assist with Focusing the Investigation”.
8. Notify Disease Control as soon as possible on the next working day.