CDC’s Emerging Infections Program
CDC/USDA/FDA Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network
FoodNet Steering Committee Conference Call
Thursday, October 11, 2007

Minutes

Attendance: CA, CO, CT, GA, MD, MN, NM, NY, OR, TN, USDA-FSIS, FDA, San Francisco Department of Health, CDC.

A) Administrative
   a. Update on manuscripts
      i. p.1 All manuscripts listed under status “10” have been posted to the website

B) Typhoid Fever Surveillance
   a. p. 6 A few changes have been made to the typhoid fever surveillance form.
      i. Paratyphoid fever has been added.
      ii. A state isolate ID number is now requested on the form.
          1. This number should match the NARMS ID number.
      iii. It was noted that some sites do not have enough space to enter the state isolate ID number in the boxes provided on the form.
          1. Sites having this problem should contact Jazmin Vodjani.
      iv. A question was raised about the case definition on the form.
          1. The current definition is “a new symptomatic, culture-proven case of typhoid and paratyphoid fever”.
             a. It was noted that this form is meant to be completed for acute infections, not chronic ones.
             b. It was suggested that the definition be expanded to include enteric fever and javoid fever.
   b. p. 8 is an abstract from a study that was conducted by Sundeep Gupta.
      i. Interesting findings:
          1. 151 of 164 of the cases were Paratyphi A, 12 cases were Paratyphi B, and 1 case was Paratyphi C.
      ii. States are being asked to submit Paratyphi A and C isolates to NARMS.
      iii. States are being asked to complete the typhoid and paratyphoid surveillance report form for paratyphi A and C cases.
      iv. There are reservations regarding collection of Paratyphi B isolates due to questions about accuracy of identification.
      i. During the given time period, the incidence of typhoid fever has been steadily decreasing.
         a. This may be indicative of increased use of an effective vaccine for typhoid fever.
2. During the given time period, the incidence of paratyphoid fever has been steadily increasing.
   a. It was noted that in some countries paratyphoid fever is more common than typhoid fever.
   b. There is no vaccine currently available for paratyphoid infections.
   c. It is for the aforementioned reasons that there is increased interest in capturing cases of paratyphoid fever.

C) Working Groups and Special Studies
   a. Attribution
      i. USDA-ARD spoke about the “NEST” program (a national egg surveillance system) on the last Attribution working group call.
         1. This project will cost an estimated 2 million dollars.
         2. The model that is being constructed is intended to estimate the prevalence of *Salmonella* in shell eggs.
      ii. Attribution working group call will now be held quarterly.
          1. The next call will be on December 6th from 11am-12pm.
          2. There are three subgroups focusing on data analysis, manuscript preparation, and modeling.
   b. HUS/STEC
      i. p. 9 is a summary of the status of HUS cases from 2000-2007.
         1. Sites need to collect both post and non-post diarrheal cases in order to effectively monitor trends over time.
      ii. Minutes from the last conference call about STEC variables can be found on p.10.
      iii. p. 11 indicates the agreed upon changes to the variable list.
          1. #49 was dropped completely.
          2. There were other minor changes to a few of the variable descriptions.
   c. Select *Salmonella* serotypes
      i. The middle section of the top table indicates the number of actual cases interviewed.
         1. Only 20 interviews of Infantis have been conducted so far in 2007.
         2. This has raised some questions about the possibility of extending the study for a second year and whether this would be for all cases of Infantis only.
            a. CDC will determine study power if extended for another year.
            b. A quick, interim analysis will be conducted and presented on the next SSS conference call on October 31st.

D) Proposals for FoodNet Study
   a. Proposal for Pet Food Surveillance in Conjunction with the NARMS Retail Food Survey (Casey Barton-Behravesh).
i. The aim of this study is to provide an enhanced understanding of the prevalence of *Salmonella* in dry pet food.

ii. It was noted that this study is intended to be a rapid survey to do a quick assessment of the prevalence of *Salmonella* in dry pet food.

iii. This study would function as a voluntary pilot in interested FoodNet sites.

iv. A question was raised about whether or not *Salmonella* causes symptoms in dogs.

1. Dogs are commonly asymptomatic, but they can shed *Salmonella* and indirectly contaminate humans.

v. A question was raised about how dog food was identified as the vehicle during the outbreak.

1. The state health departments used hypothesis-generating interviews which indicated that approximately 80% of the cases interviewed acknowledged having some contact with dogs.
   a. This led to further investigation of dog exposure, which eventually led to dog food.

2. There are currently 66 reported cases, most recent isolation dates are in September.

vi. A question was raised about trying to implicate specific brands with this study.

1. It was noted that the intent is not to implicate particular brands, but to provide a snapshot of the prevalence of *Salmonella* in dry pet food.

vii. The Retail Food Study will help to develop a specific protocol at their next meeting in two weeks.

viii. There were no objections to this proposal.

b. Proposal for Quantification of *Campylobacter* on Retail Chickens:
   Extension of Pilot Study (Mary Patrick).

   i. Proposal to extend the pilot study that was already conducted in two sites.

   1. The low levels of *Campylobacter* that were isolated were surprising.

   2. The hypothesis is that the sampling occurred during the colder months when *Campylobacter* is not as prevalent.

ii. Study would focus on samples from whole chickens during the summer months.

iii. The burden on the sites would be to purchase the chickens, do a rinsate, and mail the rinsate to FSIS lab for isolation and quantification.

iv. There were no objections from the Steering Committee to taking this proposal to the *Campylobacter* working group.

c. *E. coli* manuscript proposal (Hannah Gould)

   i. The analysis for this manuscript was started by Nicole Steinmuller, and was presented at IDSA last year.
ii. Hannah will now take the lead.
iii. Everyone should take a look at the current co-author list and see if they still want to contribute.
iv. There were no objections to this proposal.
d. Population Survey Data Request, San Francisco Department of Health
   i. Campylobacter rates are 3x higher in San Francisco that the other FoodNet sites.
   ii. San Francisco has conducted hypothesis generating interviews to try to account for the difference.
   iii. Proposal to compare information obtained from case interviews to prevalence on Population Survey.
   iv. San Francisco Department of Health will work closely with CA EIP on this project.
   v. There were no objections to this proposal.
e. Population Survey Data Request, New York State Department of Health
   i. The New York State Department of Health will lead the analysis of pregnancy health-related questions recently added to the Population Survey.
   ii. There were no objections to this proposal.

E) Special study tables
   a. Clinical outcomes
      i. There are no updates on enrollment at this time.
   b. E. coli Cohort study
      i. There are no updates on enrollment at this time.
      ii. The databases have been posted to the FTP site.

F) Surveillance data
   a. Active
      i. Points of interest
         1. There have been increases in S. Newport, S. Heidelberg, Shigella sonnei, and Salmonella all other serotypes.
         2. There have been decreases in S. Typhimurium, S. Javiana, Vibrio, and Cyclospora.
      ii. If there are any questions about the active surveillance data, please contact Cherie Long.
   b. Outbreak
      i. p. 44 is a summary of foodborne outbreaks with more than two persons ill.
         1. There have been a total of 122 outbreaks reported to eFORS so far in 2007.
      ii. p. 45 is a summary of foodborne outbreaks with more than 10 persons ill
         1. There have been a total of 57 outbreaks reported to eFORS so far in 2007.
   c. HUS
      i. Tables are located on pgs. 46-47 of the packet.
      ii. Please contact Liane if you have any questions.
G) The next Steering Committee Call will be on Thursday, November 8th from 2-3pm EST.