

Michigan Department
of Community Health



Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Janet Olszewski, Director



DATE: September 13, 2005

TO: All Local Health Departments (LHDs)
Attn: Director of Environmental Health/Chief Sanitarian/Medical
Director/Communicable Disease Supervisor

SUBJECT: "ReportFoodPoisoning.com" website

Dear Colleagues:

In partnership with Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Department of Community Health, Michigan State University is pleased to introduce a newly designed web-based program to help the public submit foodborne illness reports/complaints to their local health departments. The website WWW.ReportFoodPoisoning.com was developed by local and state epidemiologists, sanitarians and communicable disease specialists working together with faculty and staff of the National Food Safety and Toxicology Center, Michigan State University. Through trial and error with over 7,500 collected reports, MSU has struck a balance between ease of data entry and the health department's need for a complete food history. Compared to foodborne disease complaints taken over the telephone, the new web site:

1. Collects more complete food histories and more accurate personal identification information.
2. Has excellent surge capacity for large outbreaks
3. Is available 24 hours a day.
4. Saves LHDs time by reducing long phone calls for obtaining food histories.

The program is now on a secure Internet site and has a new feature that outputs the collected data in an IAFP C1/C2 form (in MS Word), which can then be used when you contact the citizen to complete the remaining data fields.

The web site also helps LHDs meet MDA accreditation requirements for Michigan's cycle 3, section H, MPR 20. The web site generates a "Comparison Report" which shows all associations shared by two or more cases within the specified time period and geographical area. The comparison report meets the requirement that the "log or tracking system is systematically reviewed to determine if isolated complaints may indicate the occurrence of a foodborne illness outbreak".

LHD personnel receive email messages when data is entered from their jurisdiction. Data is available only to authorized health department personnel and there is no data sharing among

web site visitors. A unique password from our project manager is necessary for LHDs to access and modify the data, produce reports and operate the cluster detection program.

It is recognized that this web-based system will not address all the needs of complainants or LHDs, but this is an important additional tool that can help LHDs gather and process information more efficiently.

Please consult the "LHD Toolkit" at <https://rusick2.msu.edu/toolkit.asp> for more information on this program. Contact the MSU project manager at ffmod@cvm.msu.edu or 517/432-3100 x128 if your agency may want to participate in this program.

Sincerely,



Mary Grace Stobierski, DVM, MPH
Manager
Infectious Disease Epidemiology
Communicable Disease Division
Michigan Department of
Community Health



Paul Bartlett, DVM, MPH, PhD
Professor
National Food Safety
& Toxicology Center
Michigan State University



Thomas Crook, R.S.
Manager
Food Service Sanitation Section
Food and Dairy Division
Michigan Department of Agriculture