

State of Michigan



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## Department of Agriculture

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**DATE:** August 6, 2001

**TO:** All Local Health Departments  
Attn.: Health Officer/Director of Environmental Health/Chief Sanitarian

**FROM:** Neal D. Fortin, Manager  
Food Service Sanitation Section  
Food and Dairy Division

**SUBJECT:** **Answer to a Question on the Minimum Program Requirements (MPRs)**

**Question:** Why is a food complaint log required (MPR Indicator 10.1)? This information is all recorded in the establishment file.

**Answer:** A food complaint log is a fundamental component of a foodborne illness surveillance system. The log permits observation of patterns in otherwise isolated complaints. Without a log, many disease outbreaks will go undetected.

It is recommended that the log be reviewed each time an entry is made, and also each week to discover clusters of cases or involvement of a common food or place of eating, which might otherwise go undetected. If your agency has district offices, you should periodically send copies of the log sheets (or equivalent) to a central coordinating office.

Reference: Food Law 2000, section 3131(2), and "Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Illness, Fifth Edition," published by the International Association of Food Protection.

NDF:khg

cc: MDA Food Program Managers  
Retail Food Advisory Board