

Food Premises Plant Investigation: Multi-Agency Roles Guidance Document

Ontario Multi-Agency Foodborne
Outbreak/Food Recall Working Group.

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Outline

- Purpose
- Definition of a Food Premises Plant
- The Agencies for which Roles are Described
- Roles and Team Lead/Coordinator
- Scope
- Authority

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Purpose

- 1) To provide some description of the roles of the various agencies that may be involved in the investigation of a plant
 - 2) To provide the indications for a plant investigation during a foodborne outbreak investigation
- So that all of those involved in an outbreak investigation have an understanding of the various roles of each agency

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Food Premises Plant Definition

- A food premises plant is a facility where food is produced, stored, packaged, or distributed for sale, other than a private residence.

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The Agencies for which Roles are Described

- Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
- Public Health Unit (PHU)
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)
- Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
 - Federal Field Epidemiologist
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)
- Health Canada (HC)

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Roles

- Overlap in the roles of the various agencies is justified by the fact that;
 - 1) each agency will have an independent requirement to investigate the plant in the role identified and,
 - 2) each agency's staff will bring different skills that will complement the investigation team.

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Team Coordinator

- The Coordinator/lead for each multi-agency inspection of a plant will assumed by;
 - The agency with the strongest link to the plant or the most frequent contact with the plant.

- If agreement cannot be made on the agencies involved or the Coordinator, then the “Outbreak Investigation Coordination Committee” Chair will designate the Coordinator.

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Authority

- The document ;
 - should be considered as a guidance document only
 - respects the mandate of each of the member agencies
 - does not diminish the powers that any of the various agencies possess
 - has no legal force or effect

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Out of Scope

- The document ;
 - does not address the roles involved in routine plant inspections prior to the plant being implicated in an outbreak
 - does not address plant investigations undertaken as a result of routine complaints

- For non-outbreak situations and routine complaints, each agency is responsible for the inspection of their respective plants as per usual practice.

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- The document was drafted by ...
The Ontario Multi-Agency Foodborne Outbreak/
Food Recall Working Group.
- The document is considered a “living” document that
will be updated to address omissions and concerns
upon review of each outbreak.
- The first draft was made available by the Foodborne
Outbreak WG “roll-out” of documents in 2008.
- The document is available at ...
[https://www.publichealthontario.ca/portal/server.pt/
community/home/209](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/portal/server.pt/community/home/209)

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Questions?