

# Ontario Multi-Agency Food borne Outbreak/Food Recall Working Group

Louise Sharpe and Yvonne Whitfield  
(WG co-chairs)

OPHA Conference Nov. 3, 2009

# History

---

- Created in May 2006 to improve coordination of food borne outbreak investigations between CFIA and MOHLTC
- By March 2007, OMAFRA, PHAC, CIPHI and ASPHIO had joined WG
- HC and OAHPP joined in Feb. of 2009

# Purpose

---

- Purpose-To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the multi-agency response to a food borne outbreak/food recall event in Ontario

# Goal

---

- Goal-to reduce the number of illnesses that result from food borne pathogens as a result of a food borne outbreak and that may be transmitted via a contaminated food item. This will be achieved through rapid response and coordinated activities.

# Objectives

---

- Clarify roles and responsibilities of each agency in a food borne outbreak/food recall
- Improve the coordination of activities, where activities overlap between agencies
- Review food borne outbreak/food recall events for the purposes of improving the handling of future events
- Communicate the findings from this WG to the respective agencies and other stakeholders where appropriate

# Meeting Format

---

- Conference calls take place once per month and are led by CFIA/MOHLTC co-chairs
- Face to face meetings take place when required

# Membership

---

Provincial

Federal

Municipal

MOHLTC

CFIA

CIPHI

OMAFRA

HC

ASPHIO

OAHPP

PHAC

# Key Contacts at each Agency

---

- MOHLTC-Yvonne Whitfield  
Yvonne.Whitfield@ontario.ca
  - CFIA-Louise Sharpe  
Louise.Sharpe@inspection.gc.ca
  - OMAFRA-Gavin Downing  
Gavin.Downing@ontario.ca
  - PHAC-Lisa Landry  
Lisa\_Landry@phac-aspc.gc.ca
  - OAHPP-Dean Middleton  
Dean.Middleton@oahpp.ca
  - CIPHI-Cindy Rocca  
Roccac@sdhu.com
- ASPHIO-Ross MacEachern  
Ross.MacEachern@region.durham.on.ca
  - HC-Julie Pigeon  
Julie.Pigeon@hc-sc.gc.ca

# Documents Developed

---

- Terms of Reference (version March 2009)
- Fact Sheet-CFIA Recalls-definitions (version Nov. 2006)
- Fact Sheet-CFIA Verification Procedure-Summary (version April 24, 2008)
- Information required by the CFIA for a Health Risk Assessment (version Nov. 28, 2006)

# Documents Developed (cont'd)

---

- Standardized CFIA request for assistance for Recall Effectiveness Checks (RECs) to MOHLTC (version July 3, 2008)
- Effectiveness Checks for Food Recall recording form (version June 16, 2008)
- Instructions for Completing Effectiveness Checks for Food Recall (version July 3, 2008)
- REC Summary Form (version June 16, 2008)
- Food Premises Plant Investigation- Multi-Agency Roles

# Documents Roll-Out

---

- Series of Teleconferences Held with local public health units
- All Documents noted in the previous slides were shared with the health units
- In addition, PHAC presented an overview of FIORP and CFIA presented on Ontario MOU
- MOHLTC reviewed the newly created recall co-ordinator positions within the Ministry and with the health units

# Activities to improve communications between food safety agencies

---

- Will provide comments on Food borne Illness Outbreak Response Protocol (FIORP)
- Update the Ontario Food borne Health Hazard and Illness Outbreak Investigations MOU (Ontario MOU)
- Creation of sub-committees and reporting on results:
  - Lab-sampling techniques/testing methodology
  - Communication-during inter-agency call and to the public
  - Traceback activities-inter-agency coordination & communication
  - Plant Investigation-inter-agency coordination & communication
  - Outbreak Symposium
- Results from sub-committee work will be reviewed for inclusion into updated version of MOU

# Activities to improve communications between food safety agencies (cont'd)

---

- Outbreak Symposium (planned for Winter 2010)  
Purpose-to provide a forum for discussion between government departments, involved with food safety investigations, on issues/concerns identified resulting from food safety situations (i.e. lab issues related sampling, plant and trace back investigations, communications)
- Table top exercise (June 11, 2009)  
**Purpose-to test knowledge of participants from ICFS and WG on the Ontario MOU and to identify any gaps or concerns for the update of the MOU. Debrief report developed. Began having weekly Multi-Agency Enteric Illness calls.**

# Activities to improve communications between food safety agencies (cont'd)

---

- Results from reviews of food safety situations which occurred in 2008 were shared with members at WG meeting on May 20 to ensure that issues will be captured in WG work plan. Developed chart to capture work by WG with respect to various Reports.
- Strive to continue holding conference calls with food recall coordinators in each of the PHUs and other WG member agency staff to discuss coordination of information during food recalls and provide other updates on WG activities (3 conf. calls were held in 2008)
- Continue to develop Enteric Outbreak Portal to warehouse documents created by WG

# Overview of the Ontario Multi-Agency Foodborne Outbreak Food Recall Working Group

**Ontario MAFOFR working Group**

**Co-Chairs:**  
 Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)  
 Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

**Members:**  
 Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors, Ontario (ASPPIO)  
 Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors, Ontario (CIPHI)  
 Health Canada (HC)  
 Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP)  
 Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)  
 Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

**Weekly enteric review calls**  
 - OAHPP,  
 CFIA,  
 OMAFRA,  
 MOHLTC, HC

**Meetings (1/month)**

Agenda, Minutes, etc.

**Fora**

Table Top Exercise

Debrief Report on FIORP and MOU

**Symposium**  
 MOHLTC (chair),  
 CFIA, PHAC,  
 ASPPIO, HC (HQ), OMAFRA, OAHPP

**Sub-Committees\***

1  
**Lab Investigation**  
 - OAHPP (chair)  
 - MOHLTC  
 - CFIA  
 - HC  
 - ASPPIO  
 - CIPHI

Lab List

2  
**Traceback Investigation**  
 - CFIA (chair)  
 - MOHLTC  
 - OMAFRA

Traceback Summary Document

3  
**Plant Investigation**  
 - OAHPP (chair)  
 - All - review

Plant Investigation Document

4  
**Communications**  
 - MOHLTC (chair)  
 - HC  
 - ASPPIO  
 - CFIA  
 - PHAC  
 - OMAFRA

Action Plan

**Food Recall**  
 - All (Work Completed; review as needed)

Templates, Conference Call Rollouts, etc.

**Ontario MOU Re-Drafting Team (Proposed) TBD**

\* Key : White: on-going; Green: completed; Pink: proposed  
 \* Note: Other sub-committees may be formed as needed (eg. Epi Investigations, etc.)



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada



Canadian Food  
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne  
d'inspection des aliments



Ontario



The Association of Supervisors of  
Public Health Inspectors of Ontario  
(Incorporated 1982)



Public Health  
Agency of Canada

Agence de santé  
publique du Canada



Health  
Canada

Santé  
Canada



**QUESTIONS?**

