
Florida Food Emergency Response Plan



January 25, 2018

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Executive Summary

The Governor and the Commissioner of Agriculture are united in their approach to the mission of protecting and relieving the citizens of the State of Florida from the effects and consequences of any and all food and/or feed emergencies or incidents, and as such have caused this document to be created and maintained.

As part of their statutory responsibilities, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), and the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (FDBPR) are the three primary state agencies that are tasked with preventing, preparing for, responding to, and ensuring recovery from food and/or feed emergencies and incidents in Florida. This plan represents a consensus effort and is intended to expand and build upon established departmental routine procedures and to involve additional local, state and federal agencies and the private sector as circumstance may dictate.

The Florida Food Emergency Response Plan, an Annex to [*Florida's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan \(CEMP\)*](#), defines a statewide program to Prevent, Prepare for, Respond to, and Recover from large-scale intentional, unintentional or naturally-occurring, food and/or feed emergencies or incidents. This specific annex governs the operational concepts, policies and plans required to achieve the broad objectives for a response that exceeds, or is anticipated to exceed the capacity of one or more responding agencies. This plan may be executed following the issuance of a Governor's executive order, but is also scalable to food and/or feed emergency occurrences that do not rise to such a level. The provisions of this annex can likewise be scaled and adapted as a model for regional or county food and/or feed emergency responses throughout Florida.

This plan benefited in its development by the utilization of information gathered from the existing food response plans of other states and by accessing the template designed and formulated by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). This template, the Food Emergency Template, Version 1.0, was designed to assist states both with developing a food emergency response plan and with identifying how they will integrate the National Response Plan by adopting National Incident Management System (NIMS) principles during a large-scale food emergency response, as well as how they will integrate with local emergency response plans.

Introduction

- This all-hazards Florida Food Emergency Response Plan (FERP) addresses complex or severe food and/or feed emergencies requiring response resources exceeding or anticipated to exceed the capacity of one or more agencies and builds on established departmental routine procedures. Any and all references to food emergencies, events, incidents or responses contained in this plan are to be construed as referring to both food and/or feed-related issues.
- Although the focus of this document is on the response phase of the emergency management cycle, it also addresses the prevention, protection and recovery phases.
- The FERP has been developed to address roles and functions during a food emergency response event and the plan fits within the framework of the [*Florida Comprehensive Emergency*](#)

[Management Plan \(CEMP\)](#). It is designed to complement other agency plans and provide a framework for multi-agency collaboration during an incident. As with all emergency events, and particularly with expanding multi-agency events, the [National Incident Management System \(NIMS\)](#) should be used. Its use should neither replace sound judgment nor jeopardize the safety of responding personnel.

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to identify how Florida's resources will respond in coordination with those of federal, local and tribal governments as well as the private sector to prepare for a rapid response to significant threats to food safety and public health. This will be accomplished by:

- Identifying procedures for command and coordination of complex multi-jurisdiction responses consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- Specifying state agency duties and responsibilities during food-related events beyond routine activities.
- Identifying procedures for integration of public (local, state, federal, and tribal) and private sector actions.
- Delineating methods for timely, consistent, and accurate communications between food emergency responders, industry and with the public.
- Providing a seamless transition from routine investigations and response to Florida's FERP activation to activation of the Florida State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), up to and including gubernatorial declarations.

Planning Assumptions

- Local, state, federal and tribal agencies share the responsibility of protecting the food supply with primary emergency response components being:
 - Human health monitoring and response - led and/or coordinated by the FDOH in cooperation with the 67 FDOH County Health Departments (CHD).
 - Animal health response - led and/or coordinated by FDACS in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS).
 - Food supply response – led and/or coordinated by FDACS. Specific food regulatory authorities are listed below and can also be found in Attachment 1:
 - The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) licenses and inspects residential care facilities that primarily serve persons with disabilities.

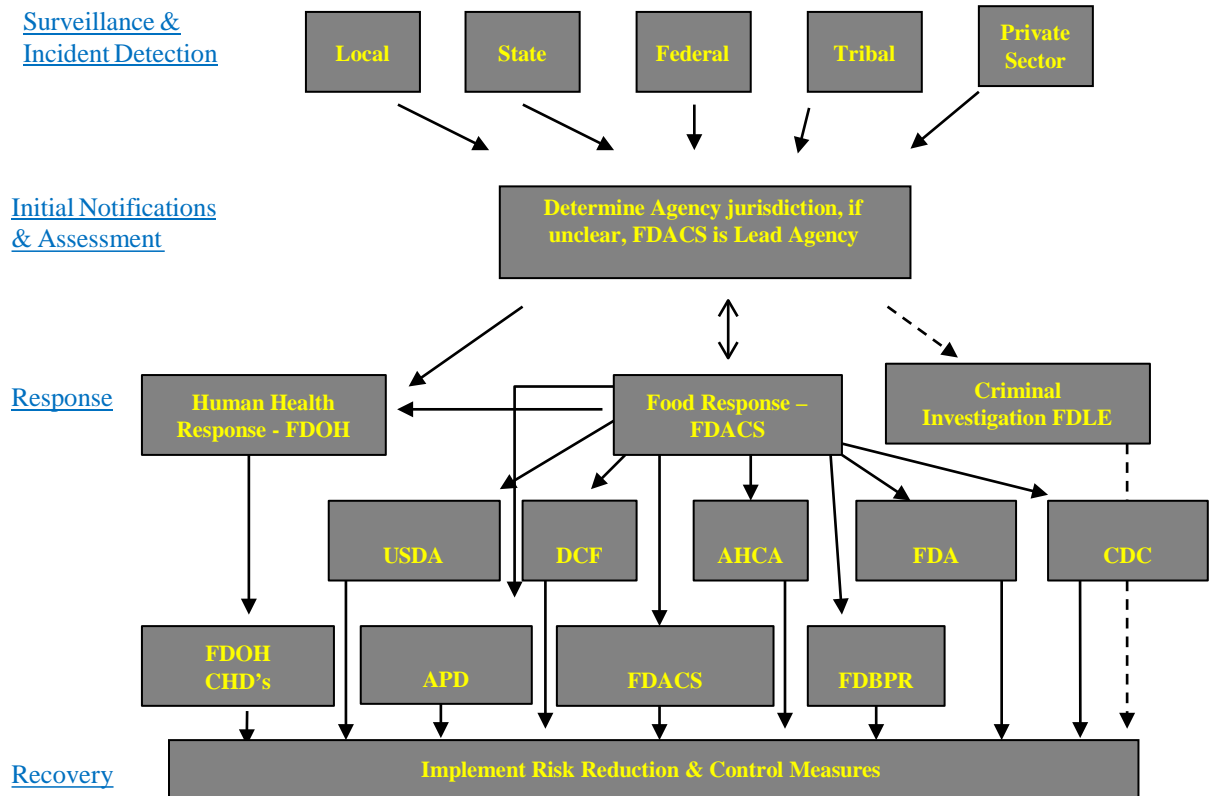
- FDOH regulates food service operations located in institutional settings (such as schools, assisted living facilities and detention facilities), civic and fraternal organizations, theaters (that limit their menus to drinks, candy, popcorn, hotdogs and nachos), and bars and lounges that do not prepare food.
 - FDBPR regulates restaurants and other food service facilities such as caterers, mobile units and temporary event vendors.
 - FDACS regulates retail grocery stores, convenience stores, food producers, wholesalers, distributors, processors, dairy farms, aquaculture, bottled water and agricultural inputs including pesticides and animal feed.
 - The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) maintains the authority to conduct routine and compliant inspections of nursing homes and hospitals which include food service operations.
 - The Department of Children and Families (DCF) regulates all licensed child care facilities that store, prepare, and/or serve food to the children in their care; completes annual food service verification inspections for religious exempt child care facilities that participate in the USDA food program.
 - The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) is responsible for protecting animal health, animal welfare, and plant health and serves as the lead agency for collaboration with other agencies to protect U.S. agriculture from invasive pests and diseases.
 - The United States Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS) regulates meat, poultry, and pasteurized egg products.
 - The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates all other foods and feed moving in interstate commerce not regulated by USDA.
 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identifies and defines preventable health problems and maintains active surveillance of diseases through epidemiologic and laboratory investigations and data collection, analyses and distribution.
- Critical tasks for successful management of large-scale or severe food emergencies have been identified in the:
 - [National Response Framework \(NRF\)](#): Food and Agriculture Incident Annex.

- [National Response Framework \(NRF\): Emergency Support Function \(ESF\) # 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources Annex.](#)
- [National Food and Agricultural Safety and Defense Target Capability.](#)
- Food regulatory staff and public health staff routinely function at the defensive performance level unless otherwise trained and equipped. These personnel will not be knowingly sent into contaminated hot zones requiring personal protective equipment beyond Level D (standard work uniform, boots, gloves, safety glasses, etc.)
- The scope of food emergency incidents addressed in this document can be thought of as any incident that exceeds, or is anticipated to exceed the capabilities or resources of one or more of the responding agencies. This plan may be executed following the issuance of a Governor’s executive order, but is also scalable to food and/or feed emergency occurrences that do not rise to such a level. The provisions of this annex can likewise be scaled and adapted as a model for regional or county food and/or feed emergency responses throughout Florida.
- As incident complexity increases, transition to command/lead agency is expected to more effectively manage the multi-jurisdictional resources that will be used.
 - Government agencies at all levels use [NIMS](#) principles to mobilize and coordinate logistics, operations, planning, and finance.
 - Federal agencies typically provide initial technical assistance. As local/state/private resources are overwhelmed, federal agencies increase their operational responsibility.

Concept of Operations

The local, state, tribal and federal agencies with statutory responsibility for food safety, in cooperation with the public and private sectors, perform surveillance of the food production and distribution system within the state, as shown below in Figure 1.

Figure 1 - Florida Food Emergency Response Overview



The SEOC may move to a partial or full activation at the direction of the Governor, the Director, Florida Division of Emergency Management, or (in the absence of the former) by the State Emergency Response and Recovery Team Chief.

FDACS assumes the initial role as lead state agency for a food emergency response if agency jurisdiction for the incident is unclear. Lead may transfer from FDACS to another state agency dependent upon the eventual circumstances of the incident as defined by the said agency’s jurisdiction. FDACS (or the designated Lead Agency) operates in one or more local, Unified Commands with other state and federal food safety agencies and in coordination with local officials in order to minimize the adverse human and economic impacts of a food related incident.

The Florida Food Emergency Response Organization and this plan are activated via a request from FDACS to the Director, Division of Emergency Management (DEM). FDACS will make this request after evaluating the following criteria:

- Response to the event exceeds the capabilities of one or more of the agencies having jurisdiction.
- The incident displays moderate resistance to stabilization or mitigation and will extend into multiple operational periods covering several days.
- Incident objectives are not expected to be met within the first several operational periods.
- The population surrounding the general incident area is affected.

- A request from another responding or monitoring agency to activate the plan.

The structure of the Florida Food Emergency Response Organization depends on whether the Governor has declared a state of emergency for the incident (see Figure 2). If required, the Governor declares a state of emergency in all or some portion of the state. Upon such a declaration, the FERP operates in accordance with the [Base Plan of the CEMP](#). The Florida Food Emergency Response Organization is de-activated when the threat is gone and/or the agency having jurisdiction has the capability to continue response alone.

The human health response to a food emergency incident, led by the FDOH, is specified in separate state and agency plans. Should the food emergency be connected to an intentional act, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) will assume the lead role for the criminal investigations. Criminal investigations of this type are specified in the [Terrorist Incident Response Annex](#) portion of the State CEMP.

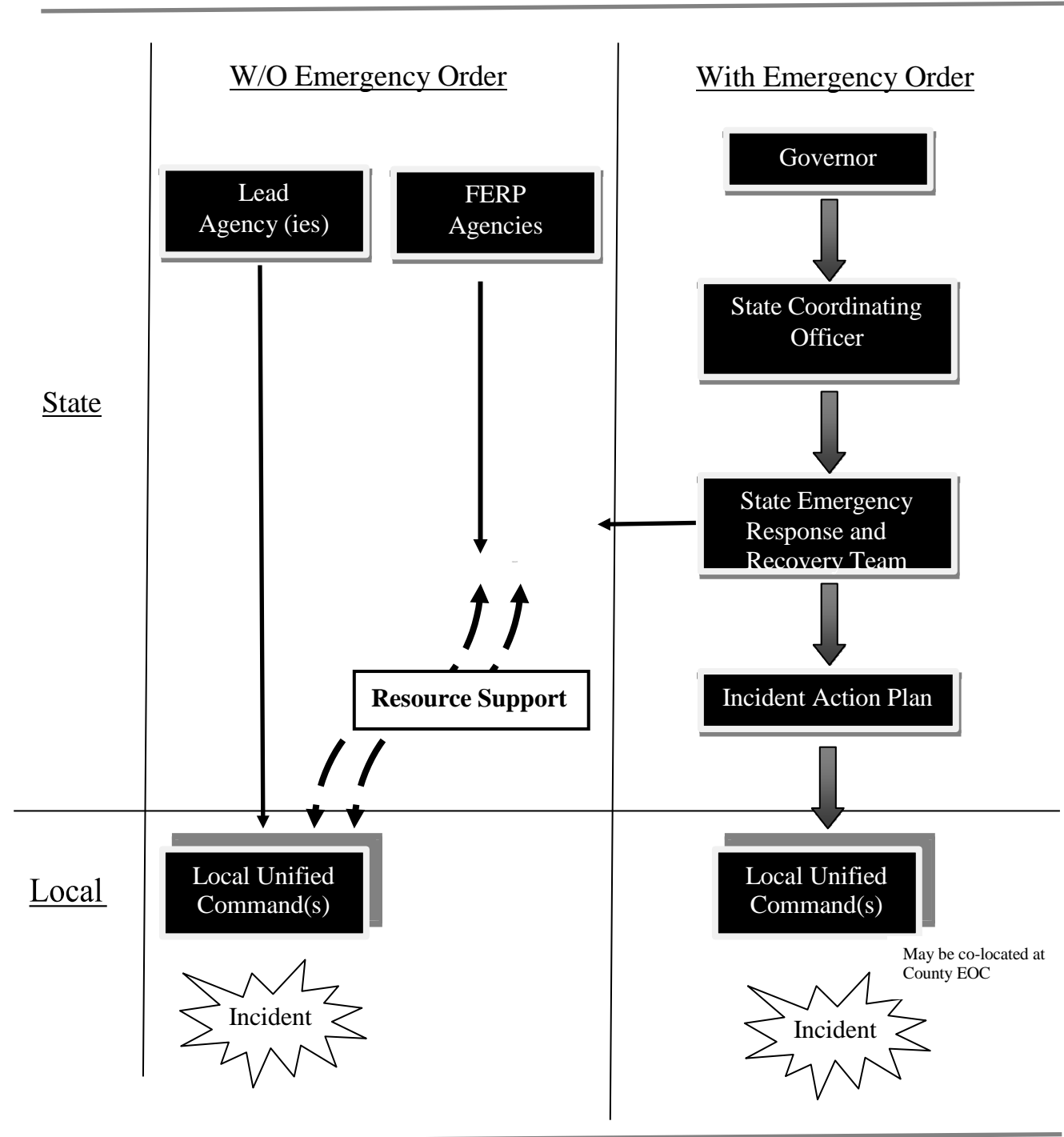
Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

Response Organization

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Figure 2 – Florida Food Emergency Response Organization

Florida Food Emergency Response Organization



Upon issuance of a Governor's Emergency Order the State Emergency Response and Recovery Team assumes responsibility for coordinating state and local support to the response and recovery from food emergency events. The local, Unified Commands continue to operate under the direction of the Lead Agency or Agencies. The SEOC may be fully or partially activated during the event. The Director of DEM, in consultation with the State Emergency Response and Recovery Team Chief, makes the decision when to activate the SEOC.

Direction, Coordination and Control

Upon issuance of a Governor's Emergency Order, the Lead Agency(ies) and DEM coordinate the following critical functions:

- The Lead Agency(ies) requests resources utilizing the WebEOC Mission Management system.
- A Joint Information Center (JIC) is established with Emergency Support Function (ESF) 14- Public Information. The Unified Command provides briefing points on the food defense situation through ESF 14. ESF 14 coordinates this consistent information message with other Public Information Officers throughout the state.

Participants

Agencies and private sector entities participating in this plan are detailed below; additional state departments, non-governmental agencies, and private and/or volunteer organizations may become involved as needed.

County Government

- FDOH County Health Departments
- Emergency management
- Law enforcement agencies
- Fire departments and hazardous materials response teams
- School districts

State of Florida

- Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Department of Health
- Department of Business and Professional Regulation
- Department of Children and Families
- Agency for Health Care Administration
- Division of Emergency Management
- Department of Law Enforcement
- Agency for Persons with Disabilities

United States Federal Government

- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), which includes the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Tribal Authorities (Federal and Non-Federal)

- Miccosukee Tribe
- Seminole Tribe
- Intertribal Council

Non-Governmental Organizations and Private Sector Partners

- Voluntary agencies involved with mass care
- Private academic institutions
- Poison control centers
- Food industry companies and associations

Responsibilities

Local Level

FDOH County Health Departments

- Shares epidemiological investigation results with applicable public and private sector entities in accordance with policies, interagency agreements, laws and emergency plans.
- Investigates food service establishments if associated with reported outbreak activity.
- Leads human health investigations and response efforts within their jurisdictions and supports multi-jurisdictional response in accordance with applicable laws and emergency plans.
- Assists in the creation and distribution of local public messaging with DOH PIOs in the JIC.

State Level

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

- Shares food supply threat and vulnerability information with applicable public and private sector entities as appropriate.
- Conducts food safety activities such as: surveillance sampling of food products, environmental sampling of food processing equipment and facilities, complaint investigations, and routine inspections.
- Leads food supply emergency responses involving but not limited to agricultural inputs (including animal feed and pesticides), farms, food processors, food wholesalers/distributors, and retail food establishments.
- Conducts food facility complaint investigations and implements or oversees control measures including but not limited to:
 - Collecting food samples
 - Collecting environmental samples of food processing equipment and facilities
 - Conducting trace back/trace forward investigations
 - Providing rapid public communication
 - Controlling contaminated, unwholesome food products
 - Overseeing recalls of adversely affected food or agricultural products

- Coordinates food supply response activities as appropriate with:
 - Local, state, and federal food regulatory agencies and tribal agencies.
 - Academic institutions [e.g., University of Florida Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS)].
 - The private sector (e.g., producers, manufacturers, food industry associations).
- Ensures laboratory analysis of samples from food and the environment are in coordination with the FDOH and FDACS inter-agency [Memorandum of Understanding](#) dated 2/17/2010 (Attachment III), and with the [State Comprehensive Laboratory Response Plan for Chemical, Biological & Radiological Incidents](#).
- Informs the public of food emergencies and appropriate risk reduction measures in accordance with agency and state emergency communication plans in the JIC.
- Coordinates food establishment decontamination and disposal efforts with appropriate environmental protection agencies.

Department of Health

- Leads human health and epidemiologic components of food emergency responses including but not limited to food/waterborne illnesses and recreational water use following the Food and Waterborne Disease Emergency Response Standard Operating Guidelines. Provides epidemiological support to FDACS and FDBPR via existing MOU agreements.
- Coordinates human health and epidemiologic response activities as appropriate with:
 - Local, state, federal and tribal public health agencies and associations.
 - Poison control centers.
 - The health care industry.
 - Academic institutions.
- Provides veterinary public health and clinical subject matter expertise and support to address environmental public health, toxicology, bite/scratch injuries from animals, and zoonotic disease hazards; conducts veterinary/animal emergency needs assessments; responds to occupational safety and health issues associated with animal response; helps implement rabies quarantines.
- Ensures laboratory analysis of food, environmental, and human clinical specimens associated with human illness outbreaks in coordination with the [Inter-Agency Agreement](#) between FDBPR

and FDOH (Attachment IV), with the [State Comprehensive Laboratory Response Plan for Chemical, Biological & Radiological Incidents](#).

- Informs the public of health threats and/or risks and appropriate risk reduction measures in accordance with agency and state emergency communication plans in the JIC.

Department of Business and Professional Regulation

- Leads food emergency responses involving but not limited to retail food service establishments.
- Licenses, inspects and regulates public lodging and food service establishments in Florida.
- Conducts foodborne illness inspections of facilities in coordination with FDOH.
- Conducts food service inspections for alcoholic beverage license applicants.
- Conducts opening inspections for new establishments and change of ownerships.
- Conducts “call-back” inspections on establishments cited for critical violations that could directly lead to food borne illnesses. Cited establishments are given a specified time period to verify correction of deficiencies.

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

- APD serves individuals with developmental disabilities and licenses four types of residential facilities – foster homes, group homes, residential habilitation centers, and comprehensive transitional education programs (CTEP). Have over 1600 licensed residential facilities statewide, including two residential habilitation centers and two CTEP licenses. The other APD-licensed facilities are group and foster homes.
- Chapter 65G-2, Florida Administrative Code (FAC), describes the rule requirements for licensed residential facilities, which includes food safety.
- APD staff review facilities for food safety and environmental health standards pursuant to 65G-2.017, F.A.C., Health Safety Standards for Licensed Facilities.
- Communicates with residential facility providers, consumers and other government agencies.

Department of Children and Families

- DCF is accountable for ensuring the health and safety of children attending child care programs statewide. The program offers licensure of child care facilities, specialized child care facilities for the care of mildly ill children, large family child care homes and family day care homes (or registration) in 62 of the 67 counties in Florida. The following five counties have elected to designate a Local Licensing Authority (LLA) as allowed in statute to administer the child care program: Broward, Hillsborough, Palm Beach, Pinellas, and Sarasota.

- DCF staff monitor food safety standards and environmental health standards in licensed facilities a minimum of three times per year and in licensed homes a minimum of two times per year. Additional monitoring visits may be required in the event a complaint is received or a re-inspection is necessary to follow-up on previous noncompliance items to ensure corrective action measures have been completed by the provider.
- Inspection reports generated by licensing staff are available to the public via the department's website or the corresponding LLA website.
- Informs the public of health threats and/or risks and appropriate risk reduction measures in accordance with agency and state emergency communication plans in the JIC.

Agency for Health Care Administration

- Informs the public of health threats and/or risks and appropriate risk reduction measures in accordance with agency and state emergency communication plans in the JIC.

Federal Level

Food and Drug Administration

- Regulates foods moving in interstate commerce, except USDA-FSIS products, in accordance with federal laws.
- Regulates FDA products through activities including:
 - Oversight of ports of entry and importation facilities.
 - Oversight of manufacturing processes for foods destined for interstate distribution.
 - Sampling and analysis of food products.
 - Environmental sampling of processing equipment and facilities.
- Initiates response actions involving FDA regulated products consistent with current agency policies.
- Identifies laboratory surge capacity through the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) and/or the ICLN.
- Coordinates actions as appropriate with local, state, and federal agency response.
- Informs the public of health threats and/or risks and appropriate risk reduction measures in accordance with agency and state emergency communication plans in the JIC.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Leads federal efforts in coordination and collaboration with state(s) related to public health surveillance, investigation of human illness outbreaks, and monitoring the effectiveness of prevention and control measures (contingent upon invitation from state(s)).
- Identifies laboratory surge capacity through the Laboratory Response Network (LRN) or the Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN).
- Provides confirmatory laboratory testing or characterization for hazardous agents, including the maintenance of the national PulseNet database.
- Issues health alerts to state health departments, key healthcare provider networks, and other entities to increase surveillance during periods of increased health risk.
- Informs the public of health threats and/or risks and appropriate risk reduction measures in accordance with agency and state emergency communication plans in the JIC.

United States Department of Agriculture, Food Safety Inspection Service

- Regulates Florida slaughter houses and meat, poultry, and pasteurized egg product processing plants (USDA-FSIS products) in accordance with federal laws.
- Regulates interstate commerce of USDA-FSIS products including:
 - Oversight of ports of entry and importation facilities.
 - Oversight of wholesale distribution.
 - Monitoring of products in distribution at retail sites.
- Initiates response actions involving USDA-FSIS regulated products consistent with the Food and Agricultural Safety and Defense Target Capability.
- Identifies laboratory surge capacity through the FERN and/or the ICLN.
- Coordinates actions as appropriate with local, state, and federal agency responses.
- Informs the public of health threats and/or risks and appropriate risk reduction measures in accordance with agency and state emergency communication plans in the JIC.

United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

- Regulates food products prior to harvest or pre-slaughter (both animal and plant origin) in accordance with federal regulations.

- Regulates interstate and international commerce of APHIS regulated animals, plants, and animal products, including:
 - Oversight of ports of entry and importation facilities from animal, plant and animal products in coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
 - Oversight of animal health at sale barns, livestock facilities and other sites of distribution.
- Initiates response actions involving USDA-APHIS regulated animal, plant and animal products consistent with the Food and Agricultural Safety and Defense Target Capability.
- Identifies laboratory surge capacity through the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.
- Coordinates actions as appropriate with local, state and federal agency responses.

Tribal Level

- Tribal authorities are responsible for food safety and response activities on their lands. State response entities should work in conjunction with FDA Tribal Liaisons to facilitate coordinated response activities with the relevant Tribal leadership.
- Informs the public of health threats and/or risks and appropriate risk reduction measures in accordance with agency and state emergency communication plans in the JIC.

Non-Governmental Level Groups and Agencies

Poison Control Centers

- Receives calls from the public and healthcare workers concerning chemical contamination and food poisoning.
- Provides clinical expertise in the area of medical toxicology, including chemical, toxin or bacterial-related food poisoning.
- Communicates with healthcare providers, consumers and government agencies.
- Contacts emergency departments and healthcare officers with mitigation information.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AHCA	Agency for Health Care Administration
APD	Agency for Persons with Disabilities
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CEMP	Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
CHD	County Health Department
DCF	Department of Children and Families
DEM	Division of Emergency Management
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DOJ	Department of Justice
EMAC	Emergency Management Assistance Compact
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESF	Emergency Support Function
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FDACS	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
FDA-OCI	Food and Drug Administration-Office of Criminal Investigation
FDBPR	Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation
FDLE	Florida Department of Law Enforcement
FDOH	Florida Department of Health
FERN	Food Emergency Response Network
FERP	Food Emergency Response Plan
FS	Florida Statute
IAP	Incident Action Plan
ICLN	Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks
ICS	Incident Command System
JIC	Joint Information Center
LRN	Laboratory Response Network
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NASDA	National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NRF	National Response Framework
SEOC	State Emergency Operations Center
SCO	State Coordinating Officer
TCL	Target Capabilities List (DHS)
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDA-APHIS	United States Department of Agriculture-Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service
USDA-FSIS	United States Department of Agriculture-Food Safety & Inspection Service
VETS	University of Florida Veterinary Emergency Treatment Services

Authorities

Actions of the Florida FERP are authorized by and conducted in accordance with provisions of the following legal authorities:

Statute	Agency	Authority
US Public Law 93-288	Federal Government	Provides authority to respond to emergencies and provide assistance to protect public health; implemented by the Federal Emergency Management Act.
Florida Statutes – Chapter 381	Florida Department of Health	Provides the authority by which the department assumes responsibility for the state’s public health system which shall be designed to promote, protect, and improve the health of all people in the state.
Laws of Florida 92-180	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Provides authority for FDACS to be the lead agency in food protection and has the ability and scientific expertise to protect our retail food supply.
Florida Statutes – Chapter 500	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Provides the authority by which the department administers and enforces the prevention of fraud, harm, adulteration, misbranding or false advertising in the preparation, manufacture or sale of articles of food as well as enforcing the provisions of this chapter relating to the production, manufacture, transportation and sale of food and articles entering into, and intended for use as ingredients in the preparation of food.
Florida Statutes – Chapter 509	Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Division of Hotels and Restaurants	Provides the authority relative to the inspection or regulation of public food service establishments for the purpose of safeguarding the public health, safety and welfare.
Florida Statutes – Chapter 408	Agency for Health Care Administration	Provides authority and responsibility for the coordinated planning of health care services in the state.
Florida Statutes – Chapter 408 Part II	Agency for Health Care Administration	Provides authority and responsibility for licensure requirements for all providers regulated by the Agency for Health Care Administration.
Florida Statute – Chapter 400	Agency for Health Care Administration	Provides authority governing nursing homes.
Florida Statute – Chapter 395	Agency for Health Care Administration	Provides authority governing hospitals.
Federal Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act	FDA	Provides authority to: conduct examinations, investigations and sample collections and to conduct inspections of any establishments, persons or vehicles, as well as all source and recipient food records (excluding farms and restaurants) used to process, hold or transport foods intended for introduction into interstate commerce: regulate intrastate juice and egg processing firms. Exempts meat and meat products with some exceptions.
Florida Statutes – Chapter 580	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Provides the authority by which the department administers and enforces the prevention of fraud, harm, adulteration, misbranding or sale of animal feed as well as enforcing the provisions of this chapter relating to the production, manufacture, transportation and sale of feed and articles entering into, and intended for use as ingredients in the preparation of feed.

Statute	Agency	Authority
Florida Statutes- Chapter 393	Agency for Persons with Disabilities	Provides authority relative to the inspection or regulation of some residential care facilities that primarily serve persons with disabilities.
Florida Statutes – Chapter 502	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Provides authority over milk, milk products, frozen desSERRTs, and frozen desSERRT mix sold or offered for sale in this state.
Florida Statutes – Chapter 583	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Provides authority to make inspections, issue stop-sale orders, or condemn and destroy eggs, egg products, or poultry.
Florida Statutes – Chapter 597	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - Aquaculture	Provides that the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall be the primary agency responsible for regulating aquaculture, any other law to the contrary notwithstanding. The only exceptions are those areas required by federal law, rule, or cooperative agreement to be regulated by another agency.
Florida Statutes – Chapter 603	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – Fruit & Vegetables	Provides when requested by the shipper, furnish carlot inspection of fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, and other agricultural products at shipping point, furnishing certificates in conformity with those used by the United States Department of Agriculture in shipping point inspection.
Florida Statutes – Chapter 402	Florida Department of Children and Families	Provides a regulatory framework that promotes the growth and stability of the child care industry and facilitates the safe physical, intellectual, motor and social skills of the child.

Plan Maintenance and Exercise

The primary agencies will collaborate to complete a biennial review to be accomplished by April 1 of each year and to propose revisions if needed. Proposed revisions, if any, will be reviewed, submitted for approval to DEM, and if approved, implemented every other year.

Aspects of the plan will be practiced during actual food emergencies or when planned emergency exercises are conducted. These exercises will constitute training relative to this plan.

After action reports and hot-wash activities will be utilized to identify gaps, shortfalls and operational difficulties and will address needed changes, revisions or alterations to the existing plan.

Attachment I: State and Federal Roles & Responsibilities Matrix

Role or Responsibility	FDACS	FDOH	FDBPR	AHCA	DCF	FDA	USDA	CDC	APD
Food Safety & Surveillance	P*	S	P*	P	P*	P*	P*	-	P
Public Health and Food-Borne Illness, Water Contamination, and Disease Surveillance	S*	P	S*	S	-	S*	S	S	S
Illness or Disease Outbreak Investigations	S*	P	S*	S	-	S*	S*	S	S
Product Contamination Investigation	P*	S	-	-	-	P*	P*	S	-
Laboratory Services	P*	S	-	-	-	P*	P*	S	-
Public Information	P*	P	P*	P	-	P*	P*	S	P*
Animal and Plant Production	P	S	-	-	-	-	P	-	-
Environmental Contamination	P	S	J*	-	-	P	P	-	-
Logistical Support, Communication, and Coordination	P*	S	P*	P	-	P*	P*	-	P
Evidence Gathering	J*	S	J*	J	-	J*	J*	S	S
Legal Support	P*	S	P*	S	-	P*	P*	-	S
Training and Outreach	J,P,S	S	P*	P	-	J,P,S	P*	-	P
Private Sector Coordination	P*	S	P*	S	-	P*	-	-	S
Animal Feed	P	S	-	-	-	P	S	-	-

P – Primary Role, S – Supporting, J – Joint Responsibility

* Depending on jurisdiction, commodity, firm type, interstate/intrastate commerce

Note on normal jurisdictions:

APD: Food items used in licensed residential facilities

AHCA: Food items used in hospitals and nursing homes

CDC: Cruise ships and airlines

DCF: Food items used in daycare centers

FWC: Seafood; limited

FDA: Interstate commerce of all foods not regulated by USDA

USDA: Meat, Poultry, Eggs, Meat Products containing more than 3% raw meats; 2% or more cooked meat; any item with the USDA Shield

Attachment II : Definitions

CEMP: Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is the master operations document through which the State of Florida handles emergencies and disasters.

Command: Order, direct, regulate or control operational strategies, tactics, and actions required to manage an incident or event.

Coordination: Manage and execute coordinating functions and processes established to support the accomplishment of the Incident Action Plan.

Coordination Functions: Situation assessment; Resource acquisition; Support policy-level decisions and interagency activities; coordinate with other EOCs; coordinate with elected & appointed officials; coordinate summary information.

County EOC: Emergency Operations Centers existing at county or regional locations.

EMAC: Emergency Management Assistance Compact: A Congressionally ratified organization that provides form and structure to interstate mutual aid through which a disaster impacted state may request and receive assistance from other member states quickly and efficiently, resolving two key issues upfront: liability and reimbursement.

Environmental Contamination: Any type of pathogenic microorganism located in food processing equipment or in any area of a food facility that can lead to contamination of a food product.

ESF: Emergency Support Function: provide the structure for coordinating interagency support for a response to an incident. Mechanisms for grouping functions most frequently used to provide support for declared disasters, emergencies and/or incidents. Florida utilizes 18 ESFs which differ slightly from the federal structure.

FERN: Food Emergency Response Network: A national system comprised of State, Federal and other designated laboratories across the country that are committed to developing capabilities and capacity for analyzing food samples resulting from a terrorist incident in the United States. The components of FERN are biological, chemical and radiological.

Food: Throughout this plan all references to food shall also pertain to feed, bottled water, prepared ice and all associated products.

Incident Action Plan: The central tool for planning during a response to a disaster, emergency or incident; is written at outset of response by the Planning Section Chief with input from the appropriate sections and units of the Incident Management Team.

Local Unified Command: Local responders to a multi-jurisdictional incident or event in a structure that brings together the “Incident Commanders” of all major organizations involved in the incident in order to coordinate an effective response.

LRN: Laboratory Response Network: A national system designed to link State, Federal and Local laboratories with other advanced capacity clinical, military, veterinary, agricultural, water and food testing laboratories. This network coordinates surveillance and is ready to identify select human pathogens and chemicals, and to alert authorities of suspected bioterrorism and chemical terrorism incidents.

NAHLN: The National Animal Health Laboratory Network: A cooperative effort between two USDA agencies – the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the National Institute of Food Safety and Agriculture (NIFA; formerly CSREES) – and, the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians. It is a multifaceted network comprised of sets of laboratories that focus on different diseases, using common testing methods and software platforms to process diagnostic requests and share information. Networking these resources provides an extensive infrastructure of facilities, equipment and personnel that are geographically accessible no matter where disease strikes. The laboratories have the capability and capacity to conduct nationwide surveillance testing for the early detection of an animal disease outbreak. They are able to test large numbers of samples during an outbreak and to demonstrate freedom from disease after eradication.

NASDA: The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture: An organization whose mission is to represent the state departments of agriculture in the development, implementation, and communication of sound public policy and programs which support and promote the American agricultural industry, while protecting consumers and the environment. It is comprised of representatives of the departments of agriculture of all fifty states and the territories of the United States of America.

NIMS: The National Integrated Incident Management System: provides a systematic, proactive approach to guide departments and agencies at all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work seamlessly to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity.

Product Contamination: Food product that is adulterated or considered unwholesome for its intended use.

PulseNet: A national network of public health and food regulatory agency laboratories coordinated by the CDC. Consisting of state health departments, local health departments and federal agencies (i.e.: CDC, USDA/FSIS, FDA), participants perform standardized molecular subtyping (or “fingerprinting”) of food borne disease-causing bacteria utilizing pulsed-field gel electrophoresis, the results of which can be electronically submitted for comparison to existing CDC dynamic databases.

State Advisory Committee: The committee responsible for advising the State Policy Group on technical issues related to an incident or event.

State Comprehensive Laboratory Response Plan for Chemical, Biological & Radiological Incidents: A plan which parallels the State of Florida’s Comprehensive Emergency management Plan, as well as activities set forth in the Nation Response Plan (NRP), and describes how the use of Florida’s laboratory resources (governmental and non-governmental) will be coordinated to respond to public health emergencies of all kinds.

State Policy Group: A group comprised of the chief elected or appointed officials or designees from those agencies with jurisdictional authority or functional responsibility for an event or incident.

State Unified Command: Same as Local Unified Command, at state level.

Attachment III : DOH-DACS Memorandum of Understanding

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Florida Department of Health (hereinafter DOH) and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (hereinafter DACS), agencies of the government of Florida, recognize the need for efficient and effective cooperation between them in matters relating to domestic security. Each agency has been assigned critical functions pursuant to state law. This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter MOU) is intended to define the relationship between the two agencies and delineate responsibilities for responses to domestic security threats.

Nothing contained within this Memorandum of Understanding precludes, limits or supercedes authorities granted to the Departments under Florida Statutes including Chapters 381, 386, 388, 482, 487, 500, 581, 585 or other applicable statutes.

Executive Order 01-300, Section 9, provides, in part, that the DOH shall, "coordinate all activities related to preparation for, training for, and response to biological and chemical attacks with the Chief of Florida Domestic Security Initiatives."

The DOH is the lead state agency for the diagnosis and prevention of human illnesses including testing for potential chemical agents, biological organisms, agents, and toxins related to domestic security threats associated with human illnesses.

The DACS is the lead state agency for food safety activities and zoonotic animal disease diagnosis, including food contamination investigation and surveillance testing of foods and bottled water, processed, stored or offered for sale within the state.

In times of emergency, the Surgeon General of the Department of Health will determine whether there exists a specific need for additional laboratory testing support in processing environmental samples. If the need is established, the Surgeon General may request assistance from DACS for the screening of environmental samples. Under such circumstances, all samples screened presumptively positive shall be forwarded by DACS to DOH for confirmation testing. DOH will be responsible for all test information and release of results.

In times of emergency the Commissioner of Agriculture will determine whether there exists a specific need for additional laboratory testing support in processing food samples. If the need is established, the Commissioner may request assistance from DOH for the screening of food samples. Under such circumstances, all samples screened presumptively positive shall be forwarded by DOH to DOACS for confirmation testing. DACS will be responsible for all test information and release of results.

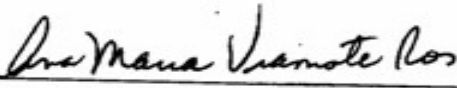
If the laboratories of either agency detect any agent associated with possible bioterrorism activities involving a food or animal sample, that agency shall notify the other agency prior to public announcement.

The agencies shall support the United States Food and Drug Administration efforts to develop a national Food Emergency Response Network.

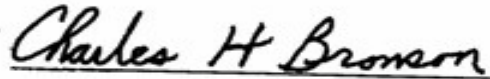
The agencies shall commit to quarterly meetings of laboratory personnel to continue efforts to achieve effective ongoing cooperative relationships and interagency preparedness in analytical matters.

When the need arises the agencies shall conduct a review of this Memorandum to ensure interagency cooperation and to enhance preparedness for the State of Florida to any risk for bioterrorism activity related to food or animals.

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into this 17th day of February 2010, 2009.



ANA M. VIAMONTÉ RÓS, M.D., M.P.H.
STATE SURGEON GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



CHARLES H. BRONSON
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND CONSUMER SERVICES

Attachment IV: DBPR-DOH Interagency Agreement

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Purpose

This agreement clarifies the duties and responsibilities of the Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health (DOH hereafter) and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Division of Hotels & Restaurants (DBPR hereafter) regarding DOH epidemiological activity related to public food service establishments licensed by DBPR.

Background

Chapters 381, 500 and 509 of the Florida Statutes, delineate food safety duties among Florida state agencies. Pursuant to these statutes, DBPR licenses and inspects certain public food service establishments, and DOH provides epidemiological services for investigation of foodborne illness suspected to be related to DBPR establishments.

DOH Duties and Responsibilities

1. DOH will provide environmental epidemiological services including investigative activity and reporting and identification of possible contributing factors to illness related to foodborne disease outbreaks in DBPR licensed establishments. DOH will conduct epidemiological investigations and complete tasks it determines are appropriate to protect the public health. DOH investigation procedures and information gathering will be similar to those published in the current edition of *International Association for Food Protection Procedures to Investigate A Foodborne Illness*.
2. DOH will determine when a foodborne disease outbreak occurs and an epidemiological investigation is warranted. The DOH definition of a foodborne disease outbreak is "an incident in which two or more persons have the same disease, have similar symptoms, or excrete the same pathogens; and there is a time, place or person association between these persons." A single case of suspected botulism, mushroom poisoning, ciguatera or paralytic shellfish poisoning or a case of a disease that can be definitely related to ingestion of a food, may be considered an incident of foodborne illness that warrants further investigation.
3. DOH may, in the course of epidemiological investigations, examine, sample, seize, and stop the sale or use of food to determine its condition and protect the public from food that is unwholesome or unfit for human consumption. DOH may stop the sale and supervise the proper destruction of food when the State Surgeon General or designee determines that such food is a threat to the public health. DOH will provide laboratory support services for foodborne illness investigation activity, such as food sampling and testing, and traceback or surveillance activities.
4. DOH will refer sanitation and safety complaints about DBPR licensed public food service establishments to the DBPR Customer Contact Center at (850) 487-1395 and to the customer contact center e-mail. Additionally, DOH will immediately notify the appropriate DBPR district office contact person by the next business day when DOH suspects possible foodborne illness related to a DBPR licensed public food service establishment and/or that an epidemiological investigation is warranted.
5. DOH will provide a report to DBPR division headquarters within 30 days of completion of each investigation, to include Form CDC 52.13 (revised 10/2000) and

a narrative of the background, investigation summary, results, conclusions, recommendations, and pertinent supporting documentation such as lab results, survey summaries, questionnaires, etc.

6. DOH will provide to DBPR an annual synopsis of foodborne disease outbreak investigations that reflects the primary purpose of foodborne illness investigations set forth in the *U.S. FDA Recommended National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standard 5*. This purpose is to identify trends and possible contributing factors that are most likely to cause illness. The annual synopsis will focus on, but be not limited to:
 - a. Multiple complaints on the same establishment type;
 - b. Multiple complaints implicating the same food;
 - c. Multiple complaints associated with similar food preparation processes;
 - d. Number of laboratory-confirmed, food-related outbreaks;
 - e. Number of non-laboratory-confirmed but epidemiologically linked, food-related outbreaks;
 - f. Contributing factors most often identified.
7. DOH will provide DBPR a list of contact persons and phone numbers for DOH county and state epidemiology staff, including after-hours, and notify DBPR as changes occur.
8. DOH will account for and annually invoice DBPR the actual costs associated with DOH epidemiological investigations related to DBPR licensed establishments, pursuant to Chapter 509.251(4), Florida Statutes. These invoices may be submitted quarterly, will document actual costs, and provide reasonable justification for audit purposes.

DBPR Duties And Responsibilities

1. DBPR will reimburse DOH the actual costs associated with DOH epidemiological investigations in DBPR licensed establishments as set forth in section 509.251(4), Florida Statutes. DBPR reimbursement may not exceed five percent of the annual public food service establishment license fees received by DBPR, and will be paid to DOH by funds transferred from the Hotel and Restaurant Trust Fund.
2. DBPR will immediately and by the next business day notify and share information with the appropriate DOH county or state epidemiology staff when DBPR receives a complaint or other information that food attributed to a DBPR licensed public food service establishment may have caused illness. Ongoing, additional information received by DBPR will also be immediately shared with DOH.
3. DBPR will provide cooperation, coordination, and inspection resources from the appropriate district office to assist DOH field staff and conduct joint activity, including inspections, when DOH determines an epidemiological investigation is warranted in a DBPR licensed establishment. If a DBPR inspector cannot be physically coordinated with the DOH team, DOH will initiate its investigation without a DBPR representative but with full support from DBPR, including contact and coordination with the establishment's person-in-charge as needed. DBPR will provide information as needed by DOH, such as the establishment's inspection records and history.

4. DBPR will provide DOH with a list of contact names and phone numbers for each DBPR district, including after-hours, and update DOH as changes occur.

This agreement is entered into by DOH and DBPR, and becomes effective upon execution. It will remain in effect until revised by mutual agreement of the parties, terminated by ninety days' written notice by either party, or is superseded as the duties and responsibilities of either agency are modified by changes to the relevant statutes.



Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H., State Surgeon General
Department of Health

3/20/08
Date



Charles W. Drago, Interim Secretary
Department of Business and Professional Regulation

3/20/08
Date

Attachment V: FDACS-DOH Interagency Agreement – Epidemiological Activity

02080

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – FOOD AND WATERBORNE DISEASE PROGRAM

The Florida Department of Health (hereinafter DOH) and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (hereinafter FDACS), agencies of the state of Florida, recognize the need for efficient and effective cooperation between them in matters relating to the investigation of foodborne disease and injuries relating to food safety. Each agency has been assigned critical functions pursuant to state law. This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter MOU) is intended to define the relationship between the two agencies and delineate responsibilities for prevention, detection, and responses to foodborne disease and injury.

Nothing contained within this MOU, limits or supercedes authority granted to the Departments under Florida Statutes including Chapters 47, 381, 386, 388, 482, 500, 585 or other applicable statutes.

The DOH is the lead state agency for the diagnosis and prevention of human illness as provided in Chapter 381 Florida Statutes. It is the duty of the Department of Health under Sections 381.0011 (4) and (6), Florida Statutes, to cooperate with and accept assistance from federal, state, and local officials for the prevention and suppression of communicable and other diseases, illnesses, injuries, and hazards to human health and provide for a thorough investigation and study of the incidence, causes, modes of propagation and transmission, and means of prevention, control, and cure of diseases, illnesses, and hazards to human health.

The FDACS collects assessments from food product activities to fund DOH as outlined in Section 381.006(10), Florida Statutes; the DOH shall investigate foodborne disease, waterborne disease, and other diseases of environmental causation, whether of chemical, radiological, or microbiological origin. The DOH shall provide an educational program for physicians and health professional designed to promote surveillance and reporting of environmental diseases, and to further the dissemination of knowledge about the relationship between toxic substances and human health which will be useful in the formulation of public policy and will be a source of information for the public.

I. FOODBORNE ILLNESS AND INJURY

The agencies shall make every effort to achieve effective ongoing cooperative relations and interagency response to foodborne illness and injury through the interagency procedures stated below:

A. Duties and Responsibilities of DOH

1. DOH will provide environmental epidemiological services including investigative activity and reporting and identification of possible contributing factors to illness related to foodborne disease outbreaks in FDACS permitted establishments. DOH will conduct epidemiological investigations and complete tasks determined to be appropriate to protect the public's health. DOH investigation procedures and information gathering will be consistent with those published in the current edition of *International Association for Food Protection Procedures to Investigate A Foodborne Illness*, the Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR) Guidelines for Foodborne Disease Outbreak Response (<http://www.cifor.us/documents/CIFORGuidelinesforFoodborneDiseaseOutbr>)

[eakResponse.pdf](#)), and the Rapid Response Teams (RRT) Best Practices Manual (<http://afdo.org/resource>).

2. DOH will determine when a foodborne disease outbreak occurs and an epidemiological investigation is warranted. The DOH definition of an outbreak is "an incident in which two or more persons have the same disease, have similar symptoms, or excrete the same pathogens; and there is a time, place or person association between these persons." A single case of suspected botulism, mushroom poisoning, ciguatera or paralytic shellfish poisoning or a case of a disease that can definitely be related to ingestion of a food, may be considered an incident of foodborne illness that warrants further investigation.
 3. DOH may, in the course of epidemiological investigations, examine, sample, seize, and stop the sale or use of food to determine its condition and protect the public from food that is unwholesome or unfit for human consumption. DOH may stop the sale of food and/or supervise the proper destruction of food when the State Surgeon General, or designee, determines that such food is a threat to the public's health. DOH will provide laboratory support services for foodborne illness investigation activity, such as food sampling and testing, and traceback or surveillance activities. Stop Sale and Stop Use Orders may also fall under FDACS Food Safety Inspection Report. DOH has its own laboratory support for analysis of clinical samples. FDACS will provide laboratory support for food sample analysis as needed.
 4. DOH will notify the FDACS immediately by email when it is determined that an epidemiological investigation will be conducted in a FDACS permitted entity. Additionally, DOH will refer complaints about FDACS permitted food establishments to the FDACS main telephone line, FAX, or email. FDACS will coordinate with DOH and or accompany DOH on the investigation.
 5. DOH will provide a report to FDACS via email at the completion of the investigation including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Form 52.13 "National Outbreak Reporting System" and a narrative of the background, investigation summary, results, conclusions, recommendations, and pertinent supporting documentation such as lab results, survey summaries, etc. The report should be received by FDACS no later than 30 days after completion of the investigation.
 6. DOH will provide to FDACS an annual synopsis of foodborne disease outbreak investigations that addresses the primary purpose of foodborne illness and injury investigations set forth in the *U.S. FDA Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards and the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standard 5*. The purpose is to identify trends and possible contributing factors that are most likely to cause illness. The annual synopsis will focus on, but not be limited to:
 - a. Multiple complaints on the same establishment type;
 - b. Multiple complaints implicating the same food;
 - c. Multiple complaints associated with similar food preparation processes;
-

- d. Number of laboratory-confirmed, food-related outbreaks;
 - e. Number of non-laboratory-confirmed but epidemiologically linked food-related outbreaks;
 - f. Contributing factors most often identified.
7. DOH will maintain epidemiological investigational findings and make available to the public via the Internet its Food and Waterborne Illness Surveillance and Investigation Annual Report.
 8. DOH will notify FDACS via email of any implicated food as soon as possible in order to determine if any product is still in the distribution system and can be traced back for possible recall or the need for other necessary steps that may be required.
 9. Email should be addressed to specified individual(s) or position titles and designated here as foodinsp@FreshFromFlorida.com.

B. Duties and Responsibilities of FDACS

1. If an epidemiological investigation is required as determined by DOH, where and when possible, a representative from FDACS will accompany the DOH epidemiological investigation team to facilitate entry at the establishment and conduct a complete inspection when warranted by the circumstances. If a FDACS representative is not available, the DOH epidemiologist or designee can initiate the investigation without the FDACS representative. Every effort should be made in advance to have both agencies present during the investigation.
2. As the lead agency in epidemiological investigation, DOH may require additional information and FDACS will cooperate in providing information within FDACS' possession.
3. FDACS shall promptly report consumer complaints of a foodborne disease and injury it receives by email to the Statewide Coordinator of Food and Waterborne Disease or designee at DOH.
4. FDACS may disseminate foodborne illness or injury complaint information it deems necessary.

II. REPORTABLE DISEASE NOTIFICATION

The agencies shall make every effort to achieve effective ongoing cooperative relations and interagency response to reportable disease notifications through the interagency procedures stated below:

A. Duties and Responsibilities of DOH

1. DOH will notify FDACS via email of any reportable disease notification received by DOH in which the person or persons are employed at a food establishment
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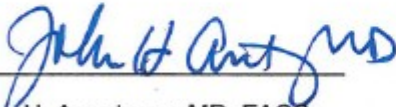
regulated by FDACS. DOH will provide a Notification of Food Worker Exclusion form outlining the requirements for the employee to return to work.

2. Email should be addressed to specified individual(s) or position titles and designated here as foodinsp@FreshFromFlorida.com.

B. Duties and Responsibilities of FDACS

1. Upon notification of a reportable disease FDACS will instruct the permitted food establishment or person(s) to notify DOH by contacting the county health department in the establishment's county.
2. FDACS employees responsible for monitoring emails will forward all DOH notifications of reportable disease and exclusion forms to the Administrator of Field Inspections and the Administrator in charge.

This MOU is entered into this 17th day of February, 2014



John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General and Secretary
Department Of Health



D. Alan Edwards
Director of Administration
Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services

Attachment VI: References/Links

[Florida Food Emergency Response Plan, Standard Operating Guide \(SOG\)](#): Implementation of this response plan will be guided and governed by a SOG which is currently under construction.

[Comprehensive Laboratory Response Plan for Chemical, Biological and Radiological Incidents](#): This plan establishes the framework which insures that the State of Florida will be able to mount a laboratory response to these hazards. The plan outlines the roles and responsibilities of the participating laboratories (both governmental and nongovernmental), coordinates response and recovery activities across the full spectrum of responding entities, and unifies the efforts of these groups for a comprehensive approach to reduce the effects of an incident or emergency. It is intended for use by emergency responders and government officials responsible for public health, food safety, animal health, environmental health, law enforcement, hazard materials teams, fire rescue and emergency medical services. The Plan can be obtained from the Chief of the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Laboratories.

[Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan \(CEMP\)](#): Florida law establishes the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan as the master operations document for the State of Florida and it is the framework through which the state handles emergencies and disasters. It defines the responsibilities of the government, private, volunteer and non-governmental organizations that comprise the State Emergency Response and Recovery Team (SERRT). The document consists of a Basic Plan, which describes the process for preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities of the SERRT. It also contains an annex for the 18 Emergency Support Functions (ESF), the primary mechanisms for providing assistance at the state level, and annexes for responding to specific hazards such as wildfires and pandemic disease outbreaks. The CEMP ensures that all levels of government are able to mobilize as a unified emergency organization to safeguard the well-being of the state's residents and visitors. It is the plan to which many of the State of Florida's other disaster response plans are aligned.

[Terrorist Incident Response Annex](#): This document defines a statewide program for the State of Florida to prepare for, respond to and recover from a terrorist or cyber-terrorist attack. It is a hazard specific annex to the Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). This annex governs the plans, operational concepts, and policies used to prepare for and respond to any type of technological and/or criminal/hostile event in the State of Florida. The procedures and actions defined in this Annex are normally executed by the State Coordinating Officer (SCO) following the issuance of an executive order by the Governor.

[National Incident Management System \(NIMS\)](#): Provides a systematic, proactive approach to guide departments and agencies at all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work seamlessly to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity, in order to reduce the loss of life, and property and harm to the environment.