Project: Technical assistance to improve implementation of food safety standards and disease crisis preparedness

Activity 1.1.17: Training on topics relevant to food chain safety including processed food of non-animal origin and composite food

Module: Trainings on food safety risk assessment and contingency arrangements to respond to emergencies. Outbreak investigation;

- Existing guidelines and procedures from EU Member States

Lecturers: Dr Lenche Jovanovska

Dr Mina Barova

Date: ……..

Place: Nicosia, Cyprus

"Project funded by the European Union within the scope of the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community, implemented by NSF Euro Consultants Consortium"

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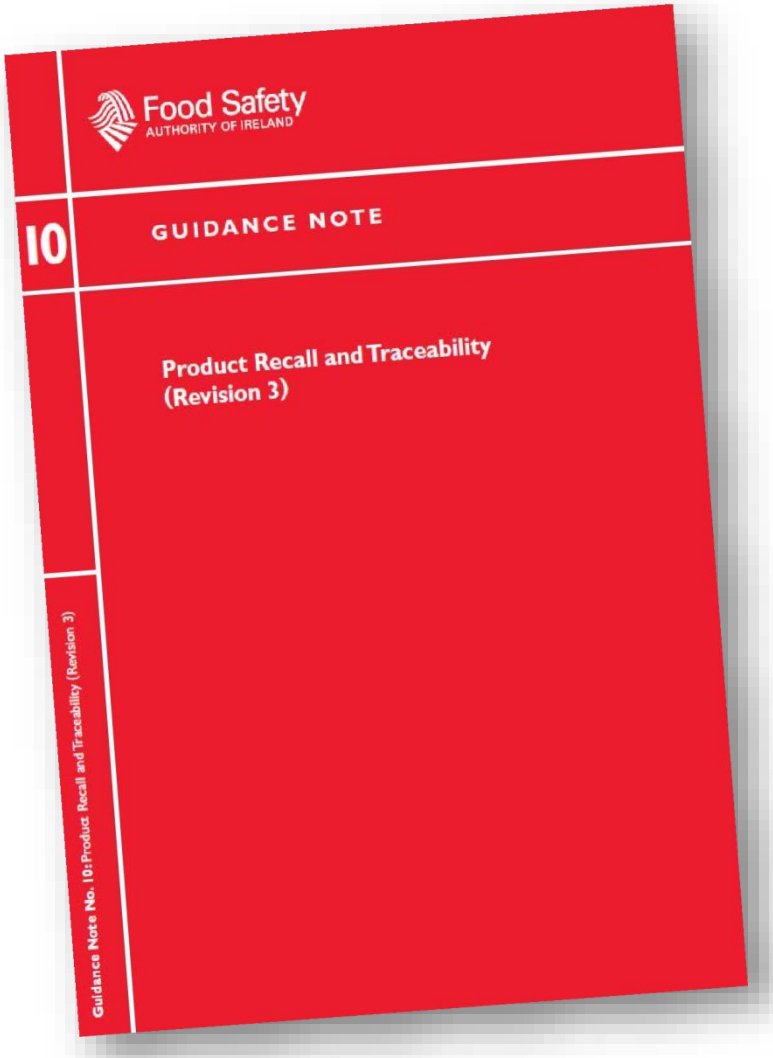
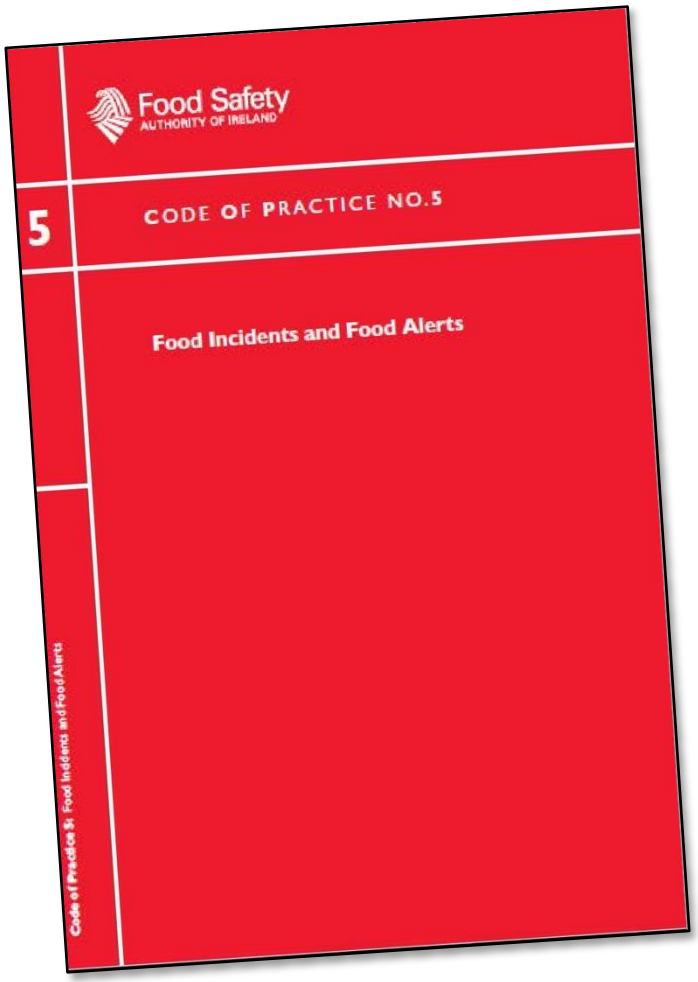
EXAMPLES?



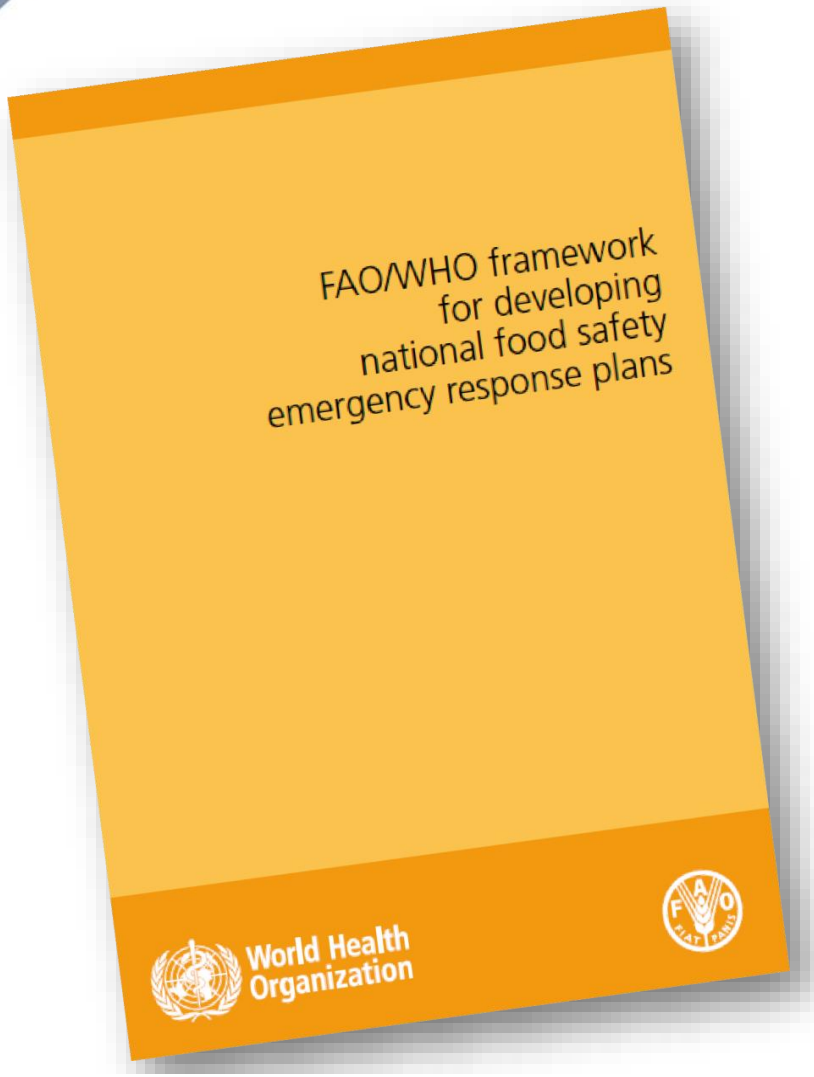
- Developing food traceability systems
- Food Recall Plan
- Food Withdrawal
- Risk Assessment
- Examples of Best Practice

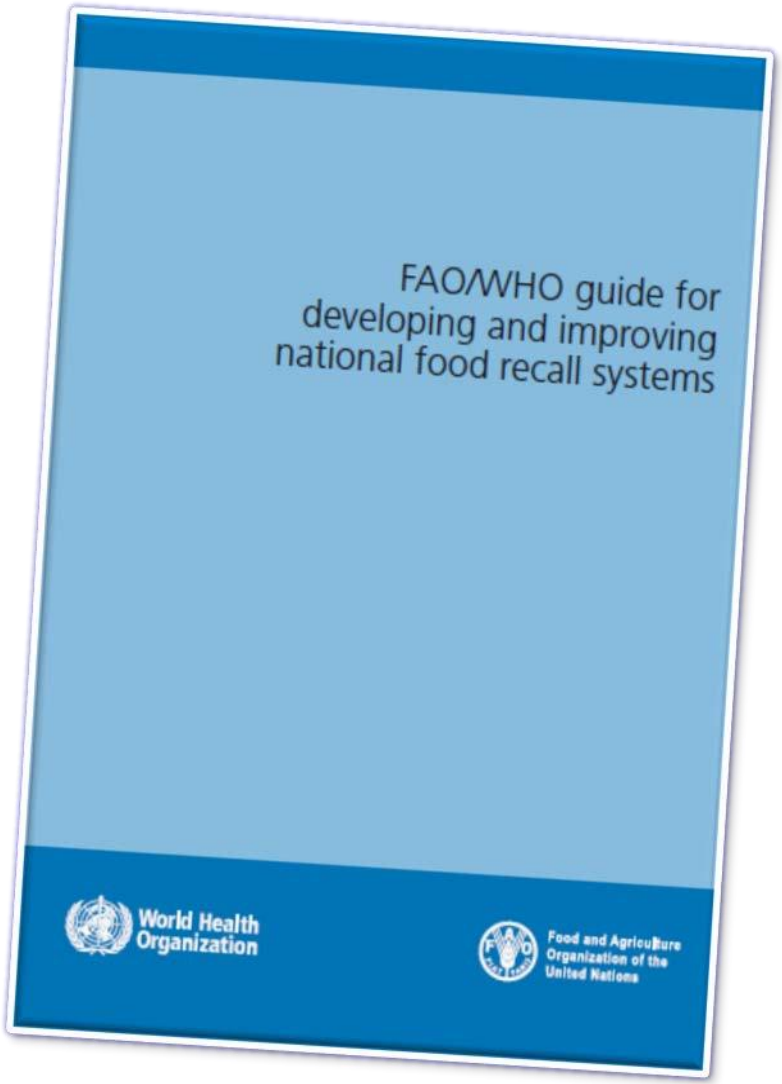
EXAMPLES?



- Responsibility For Management Of Incidents
- Notifications
- Malicious Tampering Intentional Contamination Of Food
- Communications
- Incident Closure

EXAMPLES?


FAO/WHO framework
for developing
national food safety
emergency response plans
World Health
Organization


FAO/WHO guide for
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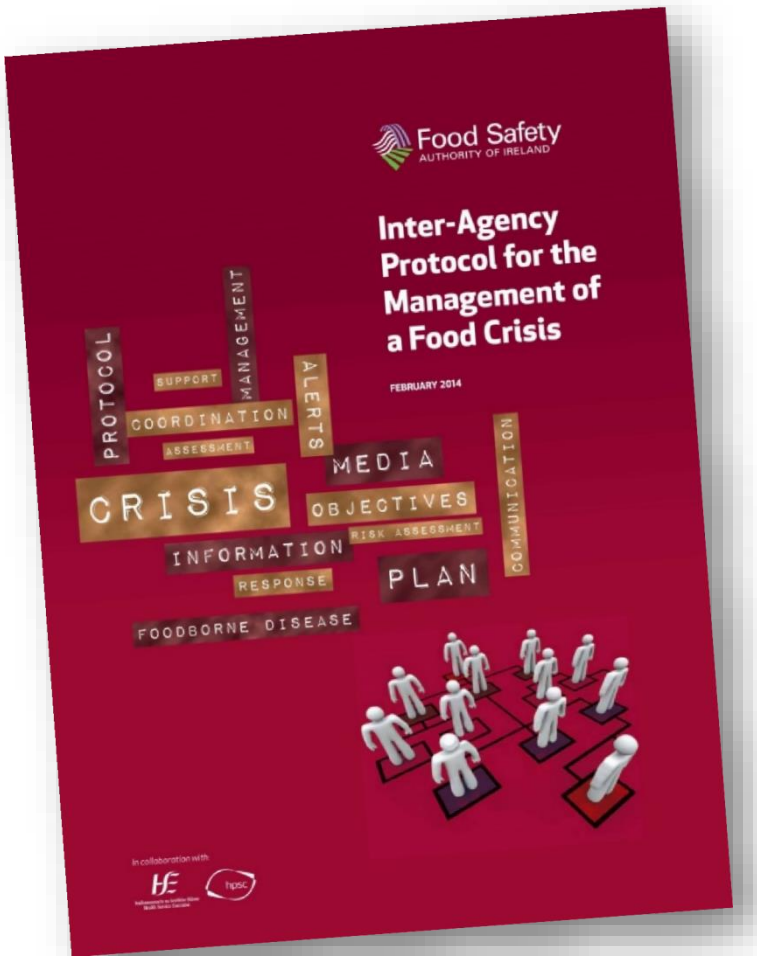
World Health
Organization
Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

NATIONAL CRISIS NETWORKS – BEST PRACTICE?



- Role of each agency
- Contact persons
- Agreed areas for collaboration
- When and how to share information
- Annual meetings to review and evaluate

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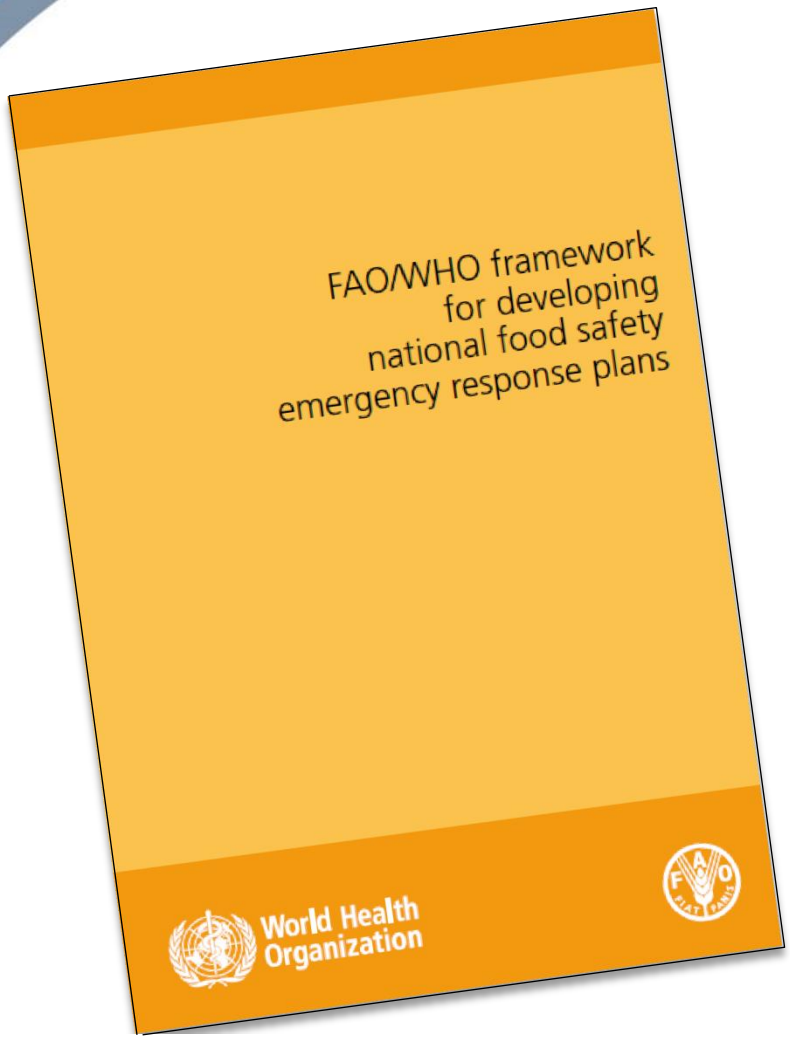
INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICE



- Guidelines for the formulation and implementation of integrated national food safety emergency response plans
- Responsibility for food safety is usually spread across a number of government agencies, all of which need to be involved in order to develop and implement an effective food safety emergency plan successfully.

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ESTABLISH A NATIONAL CRISIS NETWORK

Steps to establish a national crisis network:

- Establish inter-agency Working Group
- Agree terms of reference and *modus operandi*
- Define agency statutory responsibilities
- Agree structures and arrangements for ensuring that coordination and cooperation
- Agree lead agency coordinating the inter-agency response.

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CONCLUSIONS

- Emergency planning is an essential component of the work of Competent Authorities
- A documented control plan for the management of foodborne disease outbreaks, specifying roles and responsibilities of all relevant agencies is essential for protection of public health
- When developing an Emergency Preparedness Plan, all relevant agencies and professional disciplines must be involved and take ownership and agree Plans of Action.

Contingency Plans

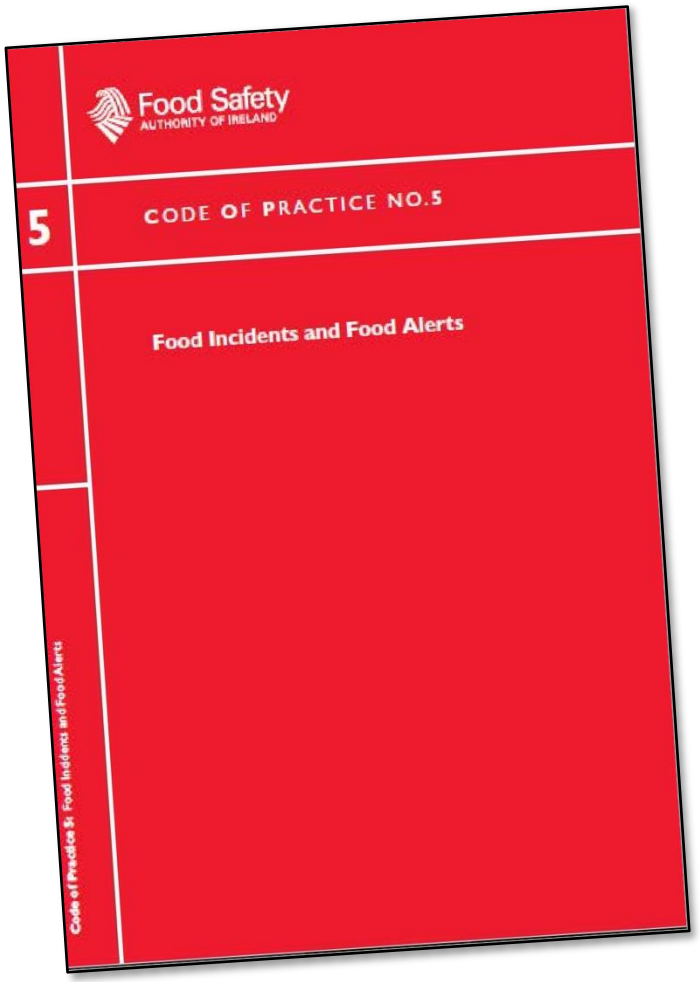
FOOD OR FEED CRISIS: DEFINITION

"*Food or feed incidents which have high risk characteristics and likely involve wide scale food distribution or are of such circumstances as making it necessary to consider them in the same way. The capacity to control the incident is beyond the normal capabilities of the official food control agencies and there is the potential for significant disruption to routine work activities. There is the likelihood that the incident will take some time to control and will need extra resource allocated to deal with it*"

"*<u>Food safety emergency:</u> A situation, whether accidental or intentional, that is identified by a competent authority asconstituting a serious and as yet uncontrolled foodborne risk to public health that requires urgent action*"

Principles and guidelines for the exchange of information in food safety emergency situations. CAC/GL 19–1995, Rev. 1–2004

MANAGING FOOD INCIDENTS & ALERTS



- CoP developed by inter-agency, multi-disciplinary group
- Establishes who is responsible for management of food incidents and their respective roles
- Risk Assessment
- Procedures and templates for Notification (web based)
- Communication systems and procedures
- Incident Closure

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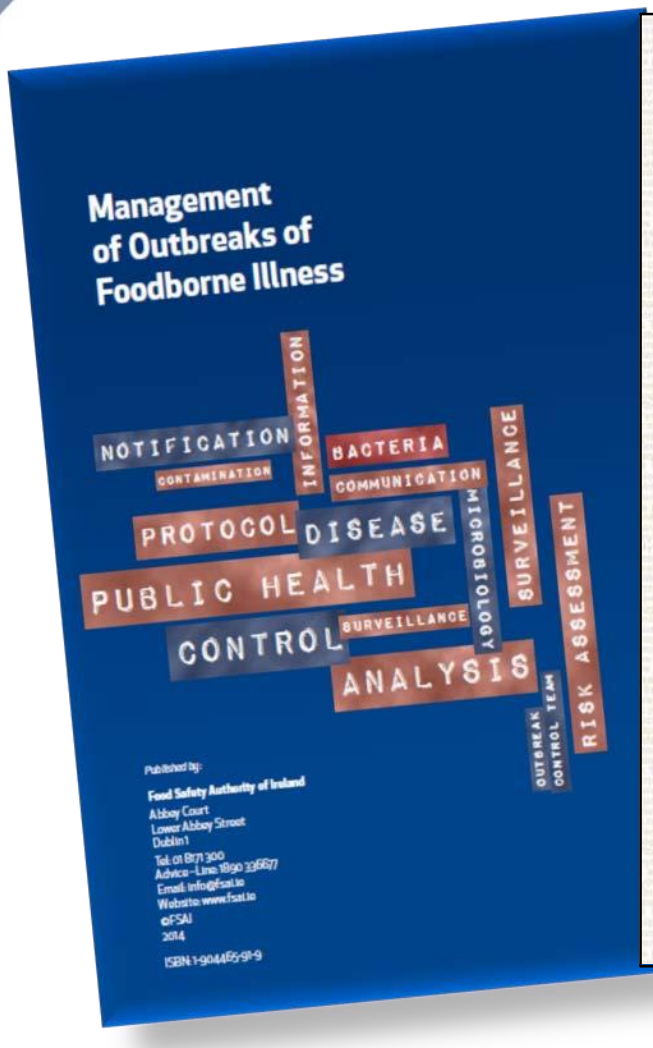
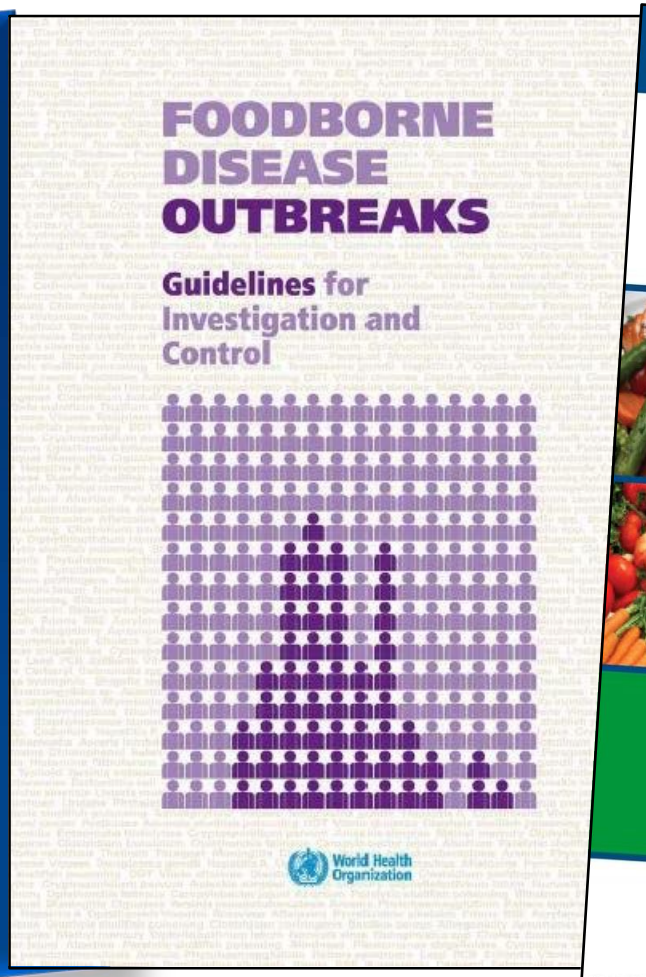
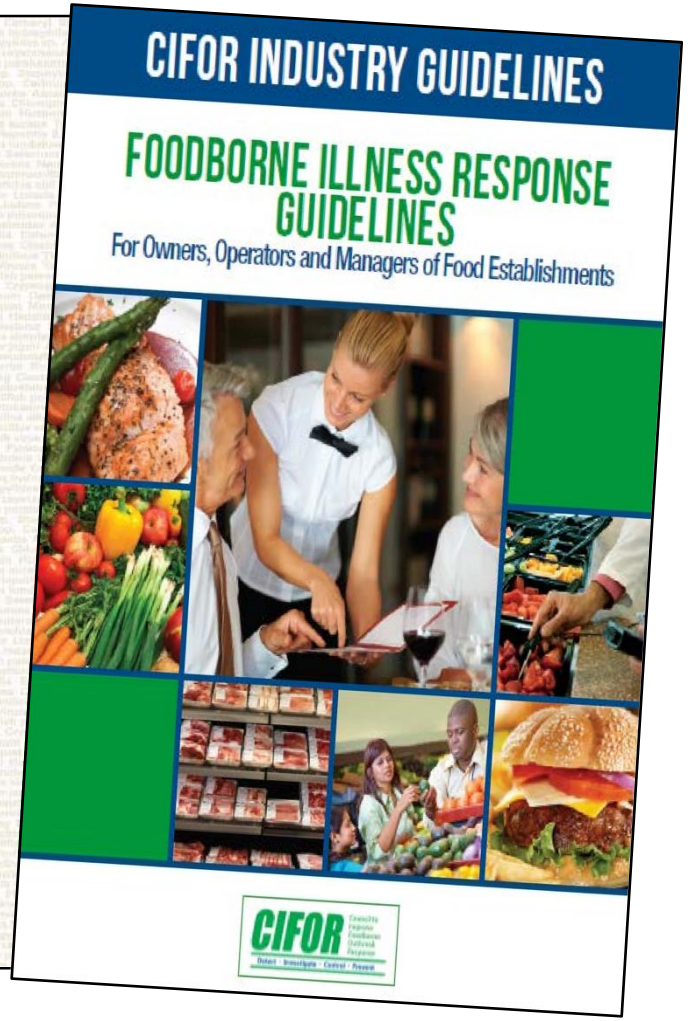
EXAMPLES OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLANS

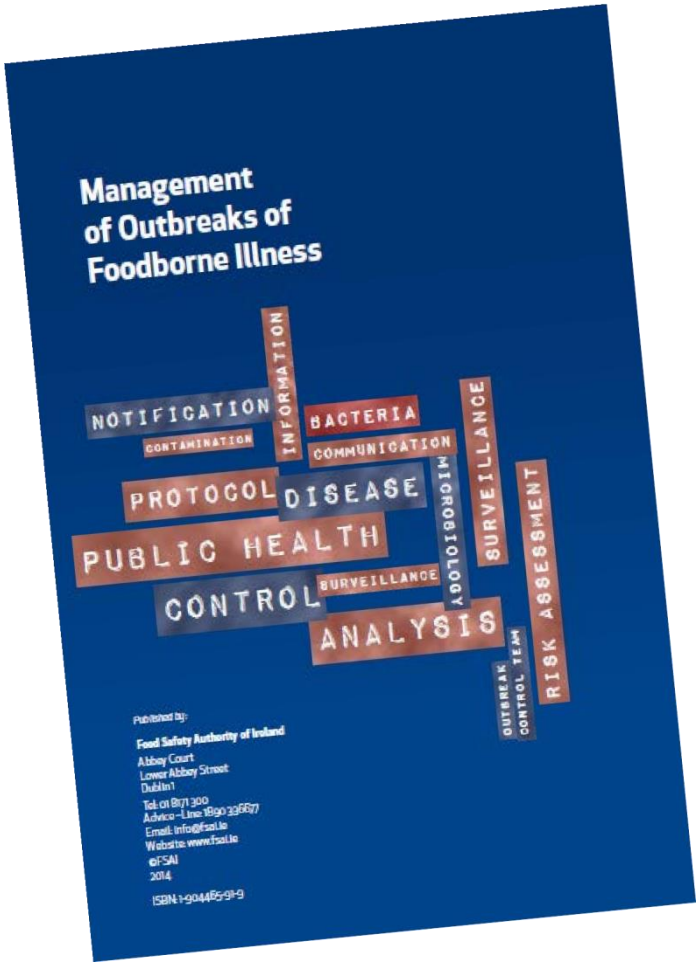






FOODBORNE OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN

example of good practice (1)



- Plan developed by inter-agency, multi-disciplinary group
- Details aims and objectives
- Establishes roles and responsibilities for management outbreaks

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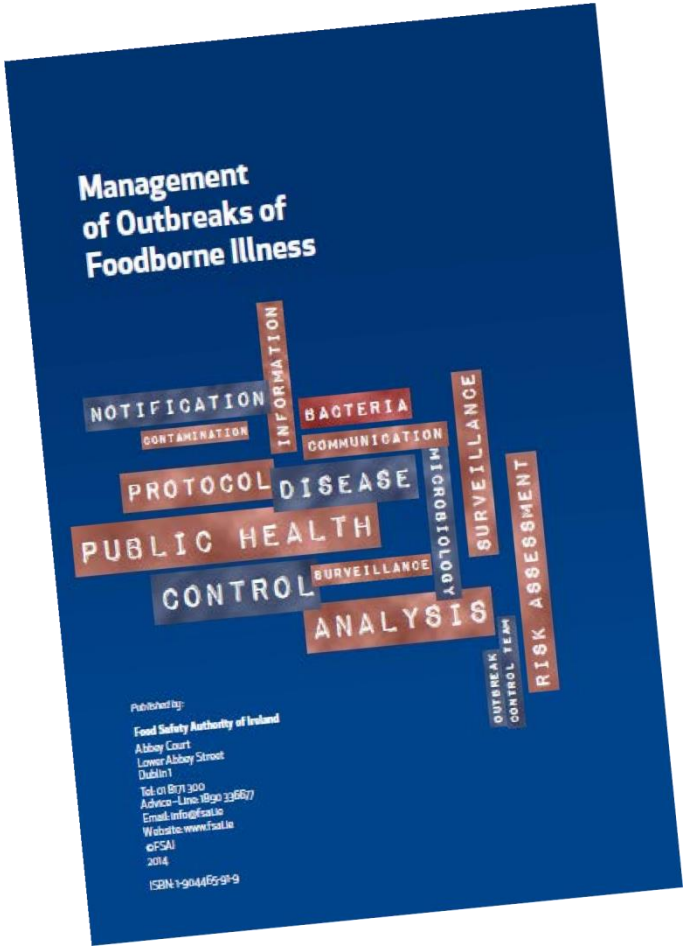
FOODBORNE OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN

example of good practice (2)



[Organisational Arrangements]

- Convening the Outbreak Control Team (OCT)
- OCT membership
- Meetings, Resources, Up-scaling

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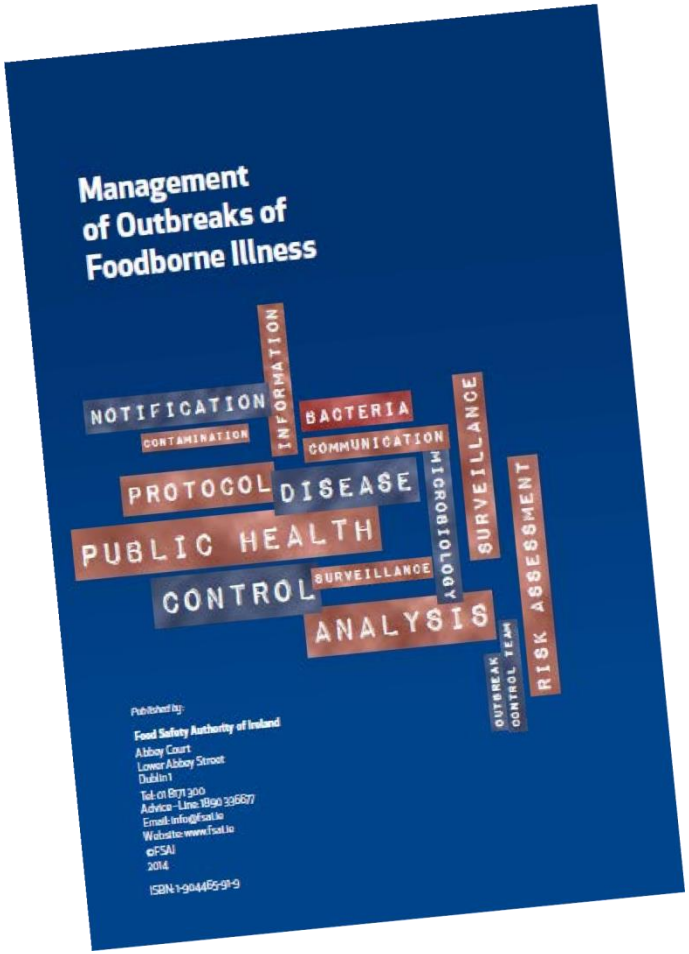
FOODBORNE OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN

example of good practice (3)



[Principles of Outbreak Management]

- Effective Communication
- Records - Daily Log
- Confidentiality within OCT

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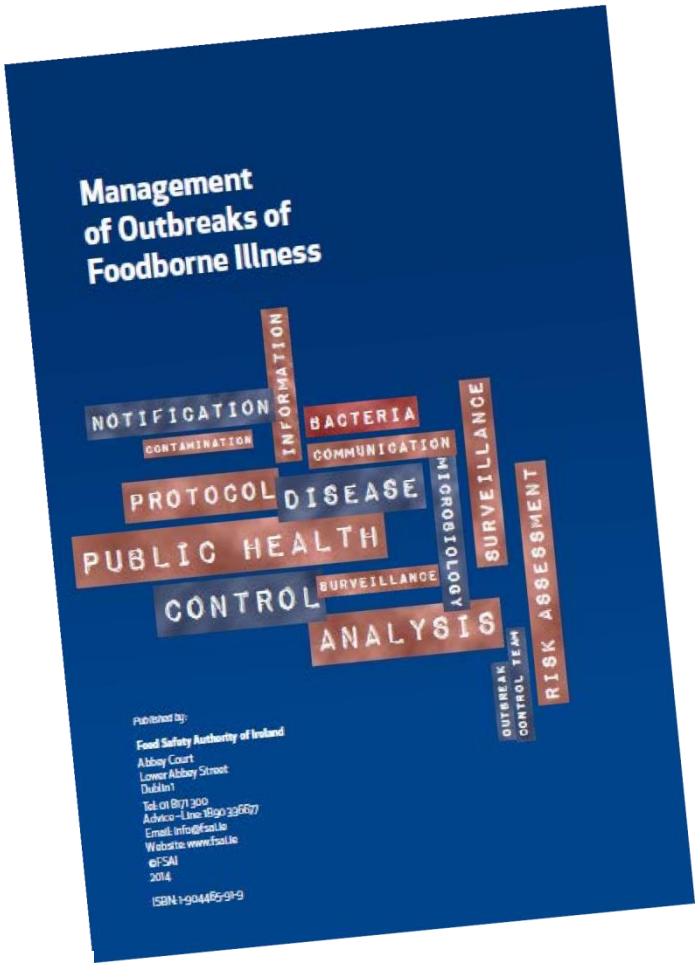
FOODBORNE OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT PLAN

example of good practice (4)



- Investigation and Control of Outbreak
- Preliminary Investigation
- Descriptive Epidemiology
- Food Business Investigation
- Microbiological Investigation
- Hypothesis Generation
- Control Measures
- Communication
- Closure/Outbreak Report
- Lessons learned

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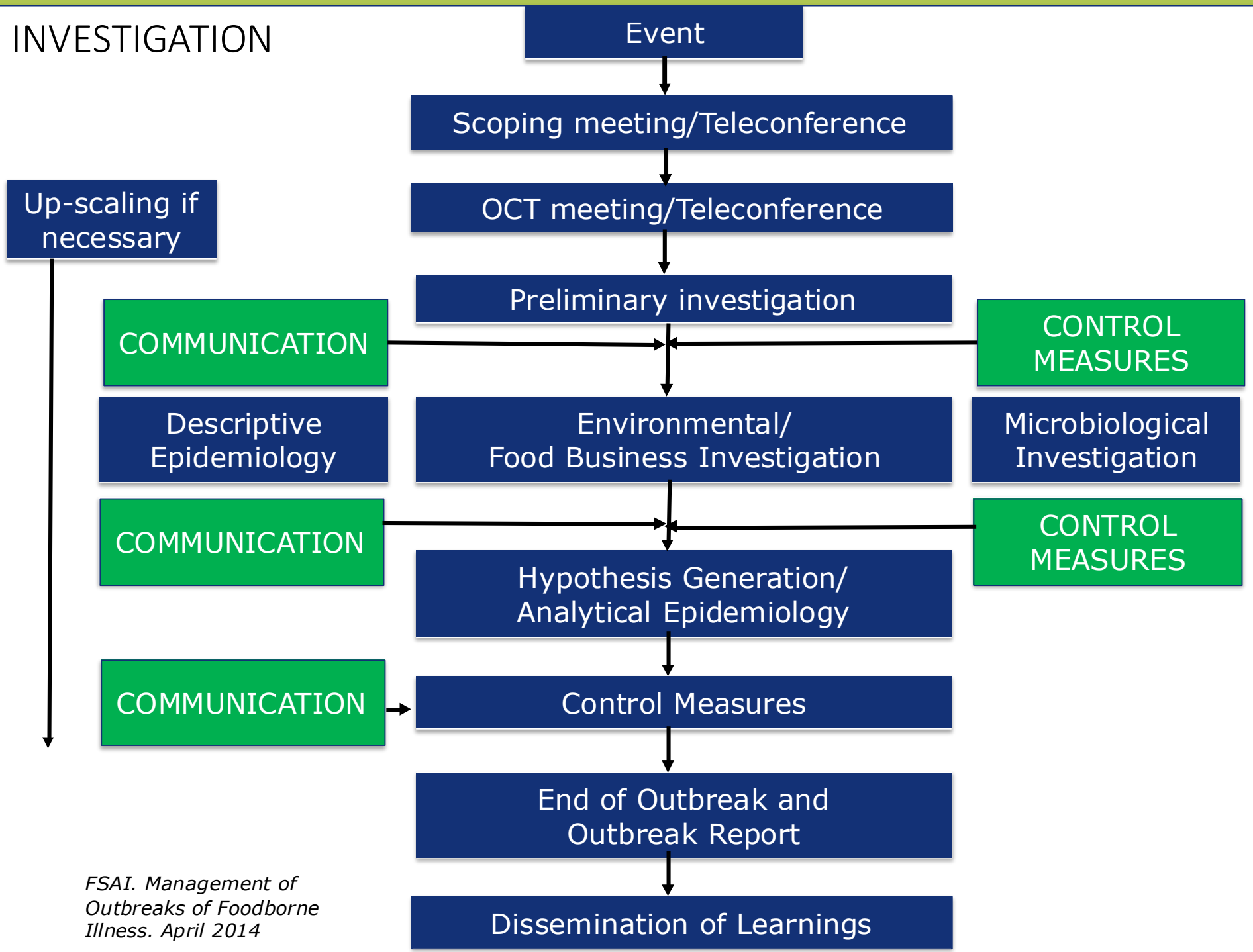
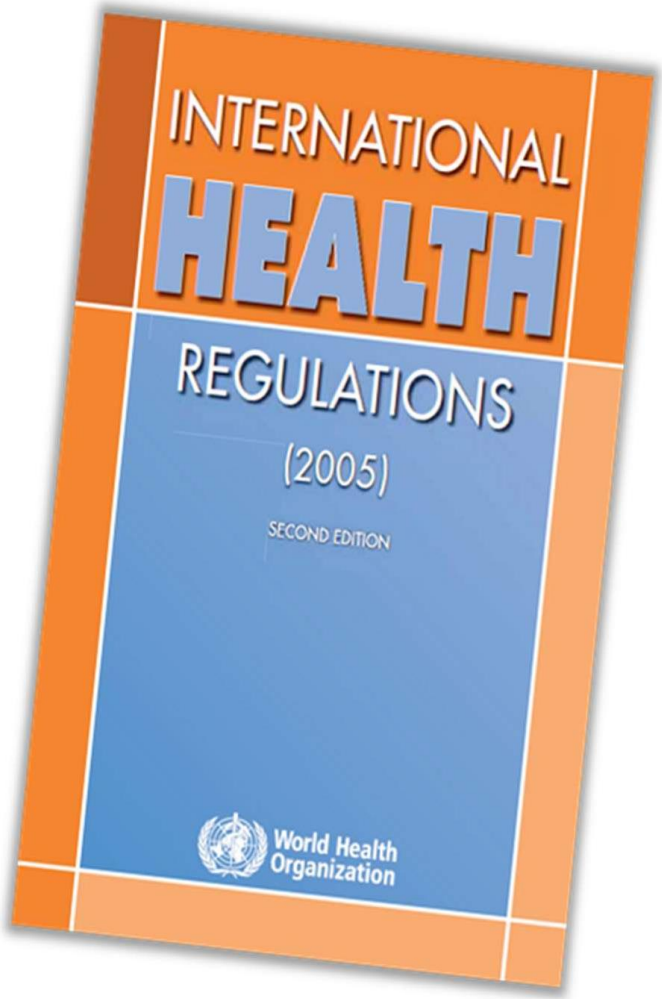
INVESTIGATION



FSAI. Management of Outbreaks of Foodborne Illness. April 2014

REQUIREMENTS UNDER IHR:
Indicator-Based Surveillance (IBS)

- IBS system that collects data on epidemic prone and priority diseases
- Timely reporting of data through the system
- Regular analysis and reporting of data
- Thresholds for outbreak detection



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CHARACTERISTICS OF A FOOD CRISIS: EXAMPLES

- Surprise
- Abnormality
- Fear
- Confusion
- Extreme Pressure
- Lack of Information
- Lack of Time

- Escalating Flow of Events
- Intense Media Attention
- Siege Mentality
- Panic
- Short-Term Focus
- Lack of Familiarity

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CONTACT

Project e-mail: foodsafetyprojectTCc@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

"Project funded by the European Union within the scope of the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community, implemented by NSF Euro Consultants Consortium"