

FOOD SAFETY ALERTS

Norovirus in Raw Oysters from Canada

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Texas Rapid Response Team (TRRT), Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Seafood and Aquatic Life program, and other public health agencies are investigating a norovirus linked to raw oysters from Canada. Retailers should not serve raw oysters harvested from BC 14-8 and BC 14-15 in British Columbia.



There were 2 Texas cases linked to this outbreak. For more information on raw oysters, see the [FDA Health Advisory](#).

Cronobacter in Powdered Infant Formula

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), FDA, TRRT, and other public health agencies investigated a *Cronobacter* outbreak linked to powdered infant formula. There were 4 cases from three states, including 1 case in Texas. Certain Similac, Alimentum, and EleCare powdered infant formula products were recalled on February 17th, 2022.

Cronobacter is specifically dangerous in infants because it may cause sepsis or meningitis. For more information on this outbreak and preventive measures, see the [Cronobacter Infection and Infants CDC post](#).

Cyclosporiasis Season

Cyclospora season will begin May 1st and will continue through August 31st. In 2021, Texas had over 200 reported cases of cyclosporiasis. At the time of publication, there are no known clusters or outbreaks of illness in Texas.

Cyclospora is caused by consuming contaminated produce. Symptoms include diarrhea, frequent bowel movements, weight loss, and fatigue. For more information on *Cyclospora* and how it affects Texas please see the [Vol. 2 No. 1 TRRT Newsletter](#) and the [Texas Department of State Health Services \(DSHS\) health advisory](#).



FOOD SAFETY TRAINING

CDC EATS is Back Online!

Environmental Assessment Training Series, or (EATS), is provided by CDC. The course objectives are:

- Learn how to identify an outbreak's environmental causes.
- Learn how to recommend appropriate control measures.
- Practice conducting virtual environmental assessments.

The course also includes simulated exercises to practice interviewing food workers, collecting environmental samples, and determining how and why germs get into the environment and spread. More information and registration for EATS can be found [here](#).

TRRT TRAINING

Foundational Interview Skills Interview Training

The DSHS Central Office Foodborne/Waterborne Illness Epidemiology Team and [Colorado Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence](#) will be hosting two virtual Foundational Interview Skills Training courses. These courses are intended to enhance participants understanding of foodborne disease outbreak activities, practice and develop interviewing methods and techniques, problem solve common interviewing roadblocks, and practice completing investigation forms. The courses will take place on May 3rd and May 6th, 2022. The course waitlist can be found [here](#).

Texas Rapid Response Team Virtual Meeting

The TRRT will host a virtual All-TRRT Meeting on June 23, 2022. This meeting will re-introduce TRRT partners and review response efforts. This meeting is ideal for those who haven't been involved with the TRRT and want to learn more. It will also be a great refresher to those who are familiar with TRRT responses. For more information, contact tishara.coleman@dshs.texas.gov.

Other Resources

- TRRT foodborne epidemiologists Kenneth Davis and Irina Cody co-authored a CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) article titled [Notes from the Field: Wound Botulism Outbreak Among a Group of Persons Who Inject Drugs — Dallas, Texas, 2020](#).
- Please see the [Texas Food Protection Task Force website](#) for previous TRRT Newsletter editions.