<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION</strong></td>
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<td>FOODBORNE DISEASE</td>
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**PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION**

**KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION**
- Read about Foodborne Disease in the CD Manual.
- See the case definition for Foodborne Disease: Other/Unknown in the CD Manual.
- Print and review reporting forms:
  - Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)
  - Part 2: Foodborne Disease: Other/Unknown (DHHS/EPI #13)

**CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION**

**COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION**
- If patient hospitalized for this disease, obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, chest x-ray(s), biopsy report(s), other lab report(s), and discharge summary).
- Obtain healthcare provider clinical notes from date(s) of service for this disease/condition.
- Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition.

**REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION**
- Review laboratory report(s) specific to this disease.
- Contact healthcare provider if further testing of the patient is indicated.
- If further laboratory testing seems indicated, discuss sending specimens to the SLPH with the on call epidemiologist from the CD Branch.

**APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION**
- Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria.

**IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES**

**ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE**
- Review clinical records for potential source(s) of exposure.
- If potential source of exposure is not evident in clinical information, interview patient to obtain additional information including contact with animals, soil, consumption of raw/undercooked meat, etc.
| **IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES** | • If pathogen is unknown but there is evidence of illness associated with a restaurant, child care center, medical facility or other identified location, consult with environmental health specialist and CD Branch to design investigation steps.  
• If pathogen is unknown but a specific vehicle is suspected, consult with environmental health specialist and CD Branch to arrange for collecting samples and submitting them for testing, if appropriate. |
| --- | --- |
| **REPORTING INVESTIGATION** | **REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)**  
• Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered.  
• Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete. |
| **CASE FINDING** | • During the course of the investigation, interview other exposed individuals for symptoms of illness.  
• Refer symptomatic individuals to healthcare provider for evaluation. |
| **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS** | **STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING**  
• Inform CD epidemiologist on call if outbreak related specimens are being sent to the SLPH for testing.  
• Verify the laboratory test results of all cases by sending specimen(s) to the SLPH/CDC for reference testing.  
• If bioterrorism event, inform SLPH by calling the BT Duty pager at (919) 310-4243 or cell phone at (919) 807-8600. |
| **PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (PHPR)** | • Inform local Preparedness Coordinator.  
• If bioterrorism event likely, call the PHPR 24/7 pager (877) 236-7477. |
| **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES** | • If non-bioterrorism event, public health workers should exercise caution in doing environmental investigations.  
• If bioterrorism event, crime control and public safety will direct on-site environmental investigation. |
| **RISK COMMUNICATION** | • Consider using risk communication tools conservatively if this is a low profile, naturally-occurring case.  
• Outbreaks of even naturally-occurring cases will need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and probably a press release.  
• In a bioterrorism event, pre-existing crisis communication plans should be enacted.  
• NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed. |