THE KENTUCKY LABORATORY SENTINEL

Upcoming Events

HAN Alert 1st week of April

Lab Week April 22 - 28

CAP LPS May 29

Be ready when opportunity comes...luck is the time when preparation and opportunity meet.

Roy D. Chapin Jr.

Packaging and Shipping

Use a rigid outer container for Biological Substance, Category B specimens. A styrofoam cooler should not be used.

TIP OF THE MONTH

CFR 49 Part 173.199

CFR 49 Part 178.609

Spinach Outbreak 2006

Peggy Clatos, Robin Cotten, Karim George, Cindy Mitchell
as printed in Ky Epi Notes

As the headlines told of the E. coli O157 outbreak in spinach, state public health labs were busy testing samples. The Pulse Field Gel Electrophoresis (PFGE) lab within the Public Health Laboratory is a participant of PulseNet, a system coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that links public health laboratories nationwide and allows laboratorians to compare DNA "fingerprints" of enteric bacteria that cause foodborne illness. The communication website within PulseNet, known as the WebBoard, is used by state and federal labs to post messages about outbreaks and clusters. The WebBoard keeps laboratorians informed about ongoing clusters, outbreaks, and possible fingerprint matches in their state.

By the time the outbreak was over, Kentucky had eight specimens that had been submitted to CDC that were closely related to the outbreak strain.
The success of rapid recognition and timely investigation of an outbreak relies heavily on the partnership that the KY Public Health Lab has with doctors and hospitals, reference labs, Epidemiology, and CDC. For the Public Health Lab to work effectively, it is critical for them to receive all Escherichia coli O157 and enteric isolates and samples that cause foodborne illness or diseases that are reportable in our state. Receiving these isolates and samples in a timely manner aids in tracing an outbreak. If the lines of communication are open and participation is high, it can lead to a safer and healthier public and a system that works more efficiently and effectively.

Questions or Comments please email Leighann.bates@ky.gov