

# *epi*TRENDS

A Monthly Bulletin on Epidemiology and Public Health Practice in Washington

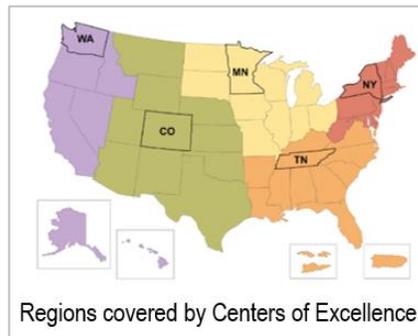
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## Washington Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence

### *Who are we?*

Washington hosts one of the five federally-funded Centers of Excellence (CoEs) throughout the country designated to support state and local health departments in their capacity to track and investigate enteric diseases and outbreaks. Washington CoE will serve as a regional center for Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Hawaii, Alaska, Oregon, and California, as well as Guam. Other regional Centers are located in Colorado, Minnesota, Tennessee, and New York.

All CoEs develop a variety of tools and resources to help other state and local health departments, such as training courses, guidance documents, and workforce capacity building tools for epidemiology, environmental health and laboratory staff. The CoEs also provide in-person or remote consultation depending on the needs of the health department.



The four CoEs focuses on four areas are:

- **Strengthen and improve** foodborne illness surveillance and response
- **Evaluate and analyze** the effectiveness of outbreak detection and investigation
- **Train and educate** students and public health workforce in laboratory, epidemiological, and environmental investigation of foodborne illnesses and outbreaks
- **Disseminate and communicate** tools and resources for food safety, foodborne illness surveillance and outbreak response

Please visit us to learn more from the websites listed under Resources.

DOH 420-002



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*What are we working on?*

- Upcoming webinar titled Diving into Vibrio (<https://foodsafety.uw.edu/events/webinar-20210520>). The webinar presentations will include:
  - Background on *Vibrio* infections
  - Vibriosis case investigation techniques (including interview tips for shellfish-associated cases)
  - Importance of shellfish traceback to identify risk factors for clusters of vibriosis cases
  - Newly-developed Vibrio Toolkit for investigators.
- Surge support at the state level for interviewing cases with notifiable enteric conditions (e.g., STEC cases).
- Mobile Health (mHealth) to use online surveys to supplement routine telephone-based case interviews for enteric conditions, initially for Giardia and Campylobacter case interviews (in collaboration with Colorado CoE).
- Training on conducting interviews for cases of enteric conditions.
- Training on utilizing allele codes, whole genome sequencing methodologies, CDC's SEDRIC (System for Enteric Disease Response, Investigation and Coordination), and NIH's National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI).
- Training on bioinformatics for epidemiologists and laboratory staff.
- Condensed Epi-Ready training.
- Sample collection resources (videos, graphic 1-pagers), to support staff obtaining environmental specimens from live poultry, turtle habitats, or restaurants as part of an investigation.
- And much more in the works!



**Resources**

- How to contact Washington CoE: [foodsafety@uw.edu](mailto:foodsafety@uw.edu)
- Washington Center of Excellence: <http://foodsafety.uw.edu>
- Northwest Center for Public Health Practice: <http://www.nwcphp.org/>
- CDC Center of Excellence Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/centers/>

