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File No. F.No. 2-5/Codex (INFOSAN)/FSSAI-2015

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006)

Codex Division

FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi - 110002

Dated, the 18<sup>th</sup> June  
May, 2018

**Subject: Establishing coordination and communication between Food Safety Officers and District Surveillance Officer/Rapid Response Team of Integrated Diseases Surveillance Program under National Centre for Disease Control for Food Safety Surveillance and emergency situations - reg.**

Foodborne diseases cover a wide spectrum of illnesses and are a growing public health concern. These diseases occur through ingestion of foodstuffs contaminated with pathogenic microorganisms or chemicals.

National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has launched the Integrated Diseases Surveillance Program (IDSP) to detect early warning signals of impending outbreaks and help initiate an effective response in a timely manner through district/state surveillance officers and rapid response team (RRT). Since both health and food sectors have a role to play in managing/controlling foodborne disease outbreaks/incidences, the coordination of Food Safety Officers with District Surveillance Officers (DSOs)/State Surveillance Officers (SSOs) and Rapid Response Teams is essential to effectively respond to situations arising out of foodborne disease outbreaks/incidences.

All Food Safety Commissioners (FSCs) of States/UTs are advised to request the Health Secretary to nominate the food safety officer (s) of each district as member (s) of the rapid response team. These food safety officers would be required to undertake the following activities after receiving an alert/intimation for any food borne disease incident through IDSP system:

1. Collect information related to foodborne disease outbreak/incidents from DSOs/SSOs.
2. Examine/investigate the case in coordination with district/state surveillance officers and rapid response team as soon as an alert for foodborne disease outbreak/incident is communicated and:
  - i. conduct site investigations including for operational hygiene at implicated premises
  - ii. take appropriate food samples and send to the accredited laboratories for analysis.
  - iii. identify potentially implicated food product and assess the severity of the risk taking into account the prevalence of the disease.
  - iv. liaise with other FSOs of the region to determine whether the implicated product is distributed in other parts of the country or exported to other countries.

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3. Take appropriate and necessary action in consultation with FSCs to ensure that the further spread of the food borne disease could be mitigated. Actions taken must be under the power delegated to the FSCs in the FSS act 2006.
4. Prepare report describing the incidents, its severity, action taken, etc. and send it to Dos, FSCs, DSOs, SSOs and FSSAI within 15 days of occurrence of the incident. The format of the report is placed at Annex 1.
5. Maintain the record of meetings with DSOs/SSOs/RRTs/any other concerned officers, investigations, laboratory reports, action taken, etc. from the beginning of the outbreak/incident.

Food Safety Commissioner should direct FSO to share their contact details for communication with district/state surveillance officers, rapid response team and FSSAI. The contact list should be updated regularly.

DO of each district should monitor the situation regularly through meetings with DSO and report/action taken in this regard should be sent to FSCs with a copy to FSSAI.

Action initiated in respect of this letter may be informed to CEO, FSSAI within fourteen days on receipt of this communication.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority in exercise of power rested under Section 16 (5) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

  
(Garima Singh)

Regulatory Compliance Division

To,

Commissioners of Food Safety of all States/UTs

Copy to:

1. Chief Secretary of all States/UTs
2. Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary (In-charge Food Safety) of all States/UTs
3. Director, National Centre for Disease Control

### Format of the Report

1. Date and place of first incident.
2. Source of the information and its mode of communication.
3. Reason for occurrence of the incidents.
4. Total number of such incidents reported.
5. Implicated food type,
6. Implicated regions
7. Action taken
8. Conclusion of laboratory report
9. Any direction or any guidance or help requested from FSSAI
10. Summary and conclusion of the investigation
11. Suggestions, if any, to prevent such incidents in future
12. Name and contact details of all the personnel involved in the case from either food sectors or health sectors or animal sectors or environment sectors.