

Directors of Public Protection in Wales

11th February 2008

Reference: ENF/W/08/007

Dear Director

MANAGEMENT OF OUTBREAKS OF FOODBORNE ILLNESS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Under cover of this letter, I am sending you an electronic version of "Management of Outbreaks of Foodborne Illness in England and Wales", which the Food Standards Agency is publishing today under section 20 of the Food Standards Act 1999.

This document updates "Management of Outbreaks of Foodborne Disease" (DH 1994), mainly to reflect the changes in roles and responsibilities of public bodies since 1994, including the creation of the Food Standards Agency in 2000. As such, much of the material from the earlier document is conserved. It also extends the scope of the guidance to reflect arrangements in Wales.

The guidance has been developed in discussion with EHPs, CCDCs, HPA and NPHS and, to the best of our knowledge, reflects the current situation. We are grateful for the contribution offered by Dennis Gardner on behalf of the Directors of Public Protection, Communicable Disease Technical Panel and Phil Mannion and Roland Salmon of the National Public Health Service.

The Food Standards Agency in Scotland is about to undertake a revision of the 2002 "Guidance on the investigation and control of outbreaks of foodborne disease in Scotland". The broad principles of the investigation and management of foodborne outbreaks are consistent between the two documents but we will be looking at opportunities for creating a common format for guidance across the UK. However, given the passage of time since the 1994 guidance was published and the major changes in roles and responsibilities since, we have taken the view that we should publish this updated version now.

We will produce hard copy of the guidance in a spiral-bound format to facilitate copying of key pages. This will be sent to you in a few weeks time. In addition, the guidance will shortly be available in Welsh upon request.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Asiantaeth Safonau Bwyd, 11ed Lawr, Ty Southgate, Wood Street Caerdydd CF10 1EW
Food Standards Agency, 11th Floor, Southgate House, Wood Street Cardiff CF10 1EW
Ffôn / Tel: +44 (0)29 2067 8901 Ffacs / Fax: +44 (0)29 2067 8919

E-bost: Jane.Davies@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

E-mail: Jane.Davies@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk



We would welcome feedback on the text, on the presentation and on the format. Comments should be sent to Heather Lewis, Food Standards Agency Wales, 11th Floor, Southgate House, Wood Street, Cardiff CF10 1EW.
E mail to; heather.lewis@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane M Davies', with a small dot above the 'i'.

Jane M Davies
Assistant Director