

NEHA NEWS

November Grand Rounds Seminar

Our Grand Rounds Seminars provide continuing education for environmental health professionals to enhance skills and knowledge and support program decision-making and best practices. The series highlights current and emerging environmental hazards and solutions. We are excited to announce November's installment in this series—Beyond the Inspection: Cracking the Case When Foodborne Illness Outbreaks Strike—on November 5 at 3 p.m. ET.

In 2024, approximately 1,400 cases of foodborne illness were reported to have resulted from the consumption of contaminated food. Moreover, 98% of these cases were associated with just 13 outbreaks, with 12 caused by *Listeria*, *Salmonella*, or *E.coli* contamination. Through lengthy investigations, the contaminated foods involved in these 12 outbreaks were eventually identified and recalled, but only after several people were hospitalized or died. These incidents demonstrate the crucial consequences when contaminant source identification lacks a timely resolution.

According to recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, foodborne illness investigations face challenges. These challenges include multi-jurisdictional complexities, communication delays, and facility access, to name a few. A more significant struggle is, however, that many environmental public health professionals lack investigation skills beyond conducting routine inspections. Many outbreak contaminant sources remain unidentified due to the lack of specialized outbreak investigation expertise within our health departments.

Environmental public health professionals serve a crucial function in protecting the public from foodborne illness, yet many investigations conclude without identifying definitive contaminant sources. This lack of identification highlights the urgent need for enhanced environmental assessment skills that can lead to the quick and effective identification of contamination sources.

In November's seminar, attendees will learn about:

- Key factors that distinguish successful outbreak investigations from others
- Available environmental assessment trainings that go beyond routine inspections
- Tools to identify and document contributing factors and root causes during investigations
- The practical methodology for integrating environmental findings with epidemiological data

Learn more and register at https://neha.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9mqfBysCTcm0R4Z2cKBaUA. You can also view past Grand Rounds Seminars at www.neha.org/eh-grand-rounds.

Part 2 of the Preventive Controls for Human Food Course Being Offered in November

Part 2 of the Preventive Controls for Human Food Course is a Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-recognized training that prepares participants to become Preventive Controls Qualified Individuals



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(PCQIs). Part 1 of the training is self-paced, while part 2 is instructor-led. Both courses, however, must be completed to earn the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) certificate. The course is taught by FSPCA-approved instructors with vast industry and regulatory experience. We are excited to be providing part 2 of this course on November 4 and 5, 2025.

The course is primarily intended for people who are responsible for developing, implementing, or overseeing a food facility's food safety plan. Furthermore, the course is beneficial for individuals who want to advance their careers in food safety or demonstrate their expertise in the field. Learn more and register at www.neha.org/FSPCA-PCQI-training.

Enacted State Legislation in 2025

As of August 2025, state legislatures introduced more than 250 bills related to food safety during the 2025 legislative sessions. Overall, 73 of these bills were enacted. The enacted bills covered a variety of topics, including food safety and state food safety agencies, meat products, food freedom and raw milk, retail foods, and food additives.

Furthermore, in August 2025, legislatures in 17 states introduced 103 bills during the 2025 legislative sessions targeting food dyes and chemicals, soda and candy purchases through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), nutrition education, bans on ultra-processed foods, and requirements for minimum amounts of physical activity in schools. Of these bills, seven have been enacted in Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia.

Our Governmental Affairs program has put together summaries of these enacted bills that can be accessed at www.neha.org/advocacy-insights under the Legislative Summaries section. 🌸