Past and recent foodborne illness outbreaks continue to illustrate the difficulties in determining when to go public with food safety information about potential public health risks. Health authorities suggest that how and when public information is released is evaluated on a case-by-case basis, but no common blueprint or playbook exists on how to evaluate each case to make these important decisions. This month’s feature article provides a review of risk communication literature related to outbreaks, explores case studies of actual incidences, and provides a blueprint for health authorities to follow.

See page 8.

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