e-Learning on Environmental Assessment of Foodborne Illness Outbreaks

Register Today!

CDC's e-Learning course addresses the role of environmental assessments within the broader context of foodborne illness outbreak investigations and the food safety system. Users acquire in-depth skills and knowledge to

- Investigate outbreaks as a member of a larger outbreak response team,
- Identify an outbreak's environmental causes, and
- Recommend appropriate control measures.

Visit www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/eLearn/EA_FIO/index.htm for information on how to register for the course.

What e-Learning Users are Saying

"Probably the best online training I've ever done! There were a lot of interactive portions...I've already used some of the questioning tactics...I think it would help any inspector for outbreaks... Two thumbs up!!"

- Environmental Health Specialist
Minnesota Department of Health

Course Information

This course is designed for environmental health professionals and food safety program officials in government agencies, as well as those from scientific, industry, and consumer groups. Before you start the course, you will take a pretest to assess your current knowledge. After the pretest, you can start the course, which includes the following sections:

1. Your assignment
2. Overview of foodborne illness outbreak environmental assessments
3. Effective interviewing skills
4. Observation and record review
5. Sampling
6. Critical thinking skills
7. Organizing assessment information
8. Control strategies and concluding actions

Virtual training exercise of simulated interview with food worker.

The course is presented in the context of a simulated virtual environment where participants can interact and practice the skills being learned. The course can be completed in about 8-10 hours.

Completion Certificates

Certificates of completion are awarded to all who successfully finish the course.

National Center for Environmental Health
Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services

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Continuing Education

Continuing education units (CEUs) are available free for this e-Learning course if it is passed within the first two attempts. CDC is approved as an authorized provider of CEUs by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) and is authorized to offer 0.9 IACET CEUs for this course.

Refrigerator contents seen in a simulated environmental assessment of a restaurant facility.

More About the e-Learning Course and NEARS

CDC developed the National Environmental Assessment Reporting System (NEARS*) to collect environmental data from foodborne illness outbreak investigations. Data collected in NEARS will help CDC and other public health professionals prevent outbreaks by understanding why and how they are occurring. CDC highly recommends completing this e-Learning course before participating in NEARS; however, the course can be taken independently of NEARS.

Course Development

This course was collaboratively developed by CDC with the help of its Environmental Health Specialists Network (EHS-Net) grantees, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. EHS-Net is a collaborative forum of local, state, and federal food program officials who work toward understanding the environmental causes of foodborne disease.

Quick Links

E-Learning on Environmental Assessment of Foodborne Illness Outbreaks:
http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/eLearn/EA_FIO

National Environmental Assessment Reporting System:
http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/nears/

Environmental Health Specialists Network:
http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/EHSNet/

Other Food Safety Resources for Environmental Health Practitioners:
http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/activities/food.html

Questions? Need Technical Assistance?
Email NEARS@cdc.gov

FOODBORNE ILLNESS OUTBREAK
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Note: NEARS was formerly known as National Voluntary Environmental Assessment Information System (NVEAIS).