



Frontline Management: Data Needs of One Local Health Department

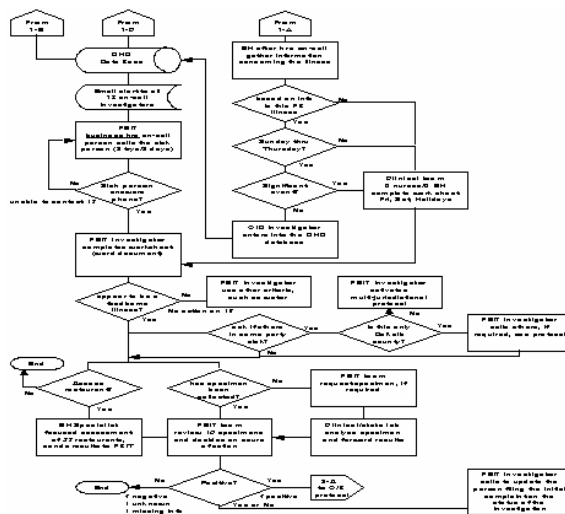
Rob Blake
Environmental Health Director
DeKalb County Board of Health
Decatur, GA



Overview of presentation

- Flowchart foodborne complaint process
 - CDC Food Safety office
 - DeKalb
 - Metro Atlanta
 - State Epi and Lab
- Barriers
- Opportunities for improvement

Flowchart continues.....



Flowchart

- Person feels ill after eating
- If call comes in after business hours it is received by an answering service
- If call comes in during business hours, DCBOH operator determines whether call is food related
- Complaints of foodborne illness can be reported to public health from a number of sources



Questions raised by the flowcharting process

- When do we respond?
- Who initiates the response?
- Is there shared investigation data management?
- Does sick person / family member know who to call?
- Does this cross jurisdictions?
- What are links and relationships to state PH and lab?



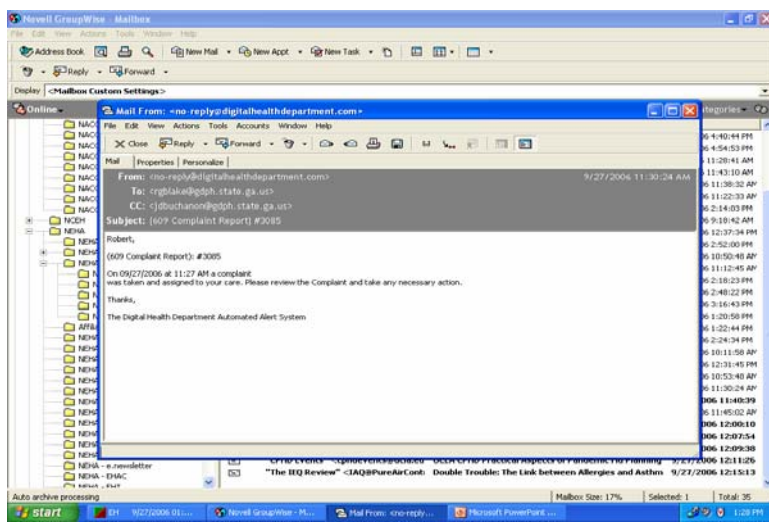
Metro Atlanta and State

- Differences in resources
- Differences in when to initiate response (1 call or 2 or more unrelated calls)
- 72 hour food histories collected?
- State epidemiology
- State Lab
- Complicated trees for various analyses
- Chemical to Dept of Ag

DeKalb Process Improvements

- Weekly Epi team – Epidemiologists, Infection Control, Physicians, EH
- EH gave up “control”
- Web based data management
- Email alert to all team with rotating responsibility
- Measurement of numbers, timeliness of response, improvement possibilities
- Ongoing evaluation

FB Complaint Auto- Notification



Shared data tracking

The screenshot displays a web application titled "The Digital Health Department" running in Microsoft Internet Explorer. The browser address bar shows the URL: <http://atlanta.digitalthhealthdepartment.com/webadmin/admin.cfm>. The application interface includes a navigation menu on the left with categories like "System Tools", "Data Entry / Tools", "Complaint Center", and "Complaints". The main content area shows a form for a food safety incident with the following details:

- Permit #: 0
- Complaint #: 942966
- Date of Incident: November 10, 2002
- Establishment Name: ORCMACRO
- Address: 3 CORPORATE SQUARE SUITE 370
- City: ATLANTA
- State / Zipcode: Georgia 30329
- # Exposed / Involved: 61
- # Reported Ill: 36
- # Confirmed Ill: 1
- # Food Samples Collected: 5
- # Samples Analyzed by Lab: 5
- Type Food Analyzed: GRAMY, MACARONS/CHEESE, HAM, TURKE
- # Human Cultures Collected: 1
- Confirmed via Lab: YES
- Causative Agent: Clostridium perfringens
- # Person Hospitalized: 0
- # Deaths: 0

The right side of the form includes an "Attachments" section with a "Browse" button and a "Change Log" section showing a change on 09/18/2003 by James Buchanan.

Barriers

- "Control" issues on who initiates and sustains the investigation
- Building/sustaining relationships
- Training responders as a team
- Resource differences
 - \$
 - Personnel
 - Capabilities
 - Interest



Opportunities for Improvement

- Resources - \$, personnel
- Nationwide intake forms?
- One federal food safety/security agency
- Mirrored at state level
- One phone number, one website for persons (sick, physician etc to report)
- Epi Ready Training
- Electronic connectedness across jurisdictions



Contact Details

Rob Blake, MPH, REHS
EH Director
DeKalb County Board of Health
445 Winn Way, Suite 320
Decatur, GA 30030
404-508-7900
Fax 404-508-7979
rdblake@dhr.state.ga.us
NEHA President Elect