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# 21 U.S. Code § 2224

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## Surveillance

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### **(a) Definition of foodborne illness outbreak**

In this Act, the term “foodborne illness outbreak” means the occurrence of 2 or more cases of a similar illness resulting from the ingestion of a certain food.

### **(b) Foodborne illness surveillance systems**

#### **(1) In general**

The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall enhance foodborne illness surveillance systems to improve the collection, analysis, reporting, and usefulness of data on foodborne illnesses by—

- (A) coordinating Federal, State and local foodborne illness surveillance systems, including complaint systems, and increasing participation in national networks of public health and food regulatory agencies and laboratories;
- (B) facilitating sharing of surveillance information on a more timely basis among governmental agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Homeland Security, and State and local agencies, and with the public;
- (C) developing improved epidemiological tools for obtaining quality exposure data and microbiological methods for classifying cases;
- (D) augmenting such systems to improve attribution of a foodborne illness outbreak to a specific food;
- (E) expanding capacity of such systems, including working toward automatic electronic searches, for implementation of identification practices, including fingerprinting strategies, for foodborne infectious agents, in order to identify new or rarely documented causes of foodborne illness and submit standardized information to a centralized database;
- (F) allowing timely public access to aggregated, de-identified surveillance data;
- (G) at least annually, publishing current reports on findings from such systems;
- (H) establishing a flexible mechanism for rapidly initiating scientific research by academic institutions;
- (I) integrating foodborne illness surveillance systems and data with other biosurveillance and public health situational awareness capabilities at the Federal, State, and local levels, including by sharing foodborne illness surveillance data with the National Biosurveillance Integration Center; and
- (J) other activities as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

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