

Section E

Foodborne Illness Investigation Procedure

The Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH) is placing increased emphasis on foodborne illness investigation, control and prevention. Its reference manual, Georgia Foodborne Illness Investigation and Control Reference Manual is part of the GDPH's focus on providing more trainings and technical assistance for local boards of health and health department staff. The purpose of the manual is to guide district health offices, local boards of health and county health department staff through foodborne illness investigation and control. It is designed as a comprehensive reference covering both epidemiologic and environmental aspects of a foodborne illness investigation, and emphasizes the practical and necessary features of investigation and control. Contained within the manual are basic information, guidelines, recommendations and regulatory requirements. This manual is targeted to district and county health department members and staff. Environmental Health Specialists (EHS), who find themselves conducting an environmental assessment during a foodborne illness outbreak, will find that this is a valuable reference tool when conducting their assessments.

In regards to Chapter 290-5-14, the Georgia Foodborne Illness Investigation and Control Reference Manual is intended to be utilized only as a reference guide for EHS in their conducting foodborne illness outbreak investigations. It is not the intent of this Interpretation Manual that the Georgia Foodborne Illness Investigation and Control Reference Manual take precedent over or supercede the intent and requirements found within the Chapter.

A copy of the most recent version of the reference manual can be found in PDF format on the GDPH web site at www.health.state.ga.us/pdfs/epi/foodborneIllnessManual.pdf or you may call the GDPH, Notifiable Diseases Epidemiology Section at (404) 657-2588 to obtain a copy.