

#### FOODBORNE ILLNESS OUTBREAK

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#### **About Delaware County**







#### **About Delaware County**

- 2017 population estimated at 200,464
  - 15% increase in population from 2010
  - Fastest growing county in Ohio
- Unemployment rate of 3.5%



#### About the Health District

Levy funded

• Approximately 75 staff agency-wide



#### About the Health District

- Delaware County
  - Continuously ranked healthiest county in Ohio for both health outcomes and health behaviors
  - Wealthiest county in Ohio
  - Most educated county in Ohio

So we have no problems.....right?



#### Thurs July 26

- DGHD received customer complaint
- Routine inspection conducted
  - Hot holding issues identified
  - Will follow-up next week



#### Weekend of July 28-29

- On-call phone receives illness report
  - Caller reports five potential illnesses





### Monday July 30

- Entire CD team is out of the office
- Two additional illnesses reported
  - Approximately seven people ill



#### Monday July 30

- "I'm not worried. If something was going on at Chipotle we would have a lot more than seven people ill"
  - Travis Irvan, Monday July 30 around 10:00 AM



#### Monday July 30

- 4 P.M.- Follow-up inspection conducted
  - Facility is closed
  - All food discarded
- National media reaches out
- Local media runs segment on evening news



- Additional illness reports come in
  - Social media 'closed groups'
- Quick meeting with managers and PIO

• And then at 10:30....







#### ATTENTION

If you consumed food from Chipotle at 9733 Sawmill Parkway between Thursday July 26 - Monday July 30 and have experienced symptoms of nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea, please call (740) 368-1700 and ask to talk to a member of the Communicable Disease Team.



- Handling phone calls
  - Admins started forwarding those calls to CD Team
    - Quickly overwhelmed
  - Switched to admins entering name and numbers into a linelist and we'll call back when we can



#### Interviews

- Too many to be done by my team
- Created standardized survey
- Trained non-CD staff to assist



- Logistics
  - Stool kit drop off
    - Dropped off 33 stool kits the first day
  - Collect leftover food samples



• I was poisoned data

• O good. A ciguatoxin outbreak, too.



- PIO requesting data
  - Media wants to know how many cases
    - Over 30 media outlets contacted DGHD
  - How do we define this at this point?
- Let's go with 'Inquiries'
  - Either a phone call or e-mail from someone reporting illness





- Facility inspected
  - Facility reopened
- Norovirus protocol



#### Wed Aug 1

- Implemented goals for the day for task leaders
- Multiple food and stool samples collected
- 24/7 On-call phone was very busy- 30 more inquiries came in during non-office hours



#### Wed Aug 1

- Early hypothesis
  - Not seeing any secondary spread among household contacts
  - Based on signs/symptoms and incubation period, appears to be
     B. cereus or C. perfringens.
    - Matches up pretty well with EH data collected during inspections



### Wed. Aug 1

- First lab results are in
  - Everything came back negative
    - But based on our preliminary hypothesis, we expected this



- Transitioning staff from Interview Task Force to Data Entry Task Force
- Lot of communication between Chipotle and our staff
- Another inspection at the facility





- More lab results
  - Six cary blairs tested, all negative
  - ODH not testing any more samples via BioFire
  - ODH testing bulk stool for Norovirus in case it is a strain not identified by BioFire
  - Samples also being sent to CDC for B. cereus and C. perfringens



- Food samples
  - 10 samples sent to ODH Lab for testing
  - Lab would prefer food samples to be separate, and not mixed
    - i.e. only meat, only beans, only rice



More data from I was poisoned

• Ended the day with 683 inquiries and 500 interviews completed



# Fri Aug 3

- Work continues
- Rumor control/misguided info
- Over 700 inquiries
  - All interviewed by the end of the day





#### Social Media

 Conspiracy characters



tradervic @tradervic21 · Aug 8

if we're gonna investigate anything, let's investigate why \$cmg is up 2% right before receiving their "clean" bill of health. is it @delawarehealth or @delawarewealth. @CDCgov there's #cyclospora in dem #diarrhea #freshexpress @cnbc @CNBCFastMoney @jimcramer





#### Mon Aug 6

- 8 people reported symptoms returning
  - Is this anything?



#### Mon Aug 6

- Preliminary food results are in
  - Negative for everything, including B. cereus and C. perfringens

- So now what?
  - Start thinking about a chemical contamination
    - What if this was intentional?





## Tues Aug 7

- ....another outbreak
  - Pseudomonas folliculitis/Pseudomonas aeruginosa
- E. Coli?!
  - From a Chipotle worker who worked during the time frame and was symptomatic



#### Wed Aug. 8

- Conference call w/ ODH and ODA on chemicals
- Starting to get additional calls from people who became ill outside our initial time frame



## Aug 9-15

A lot of thinking

• .....and waiting



### Aug 16

• Confirmed *C. perfringens* 



### Clost ridium perfringens

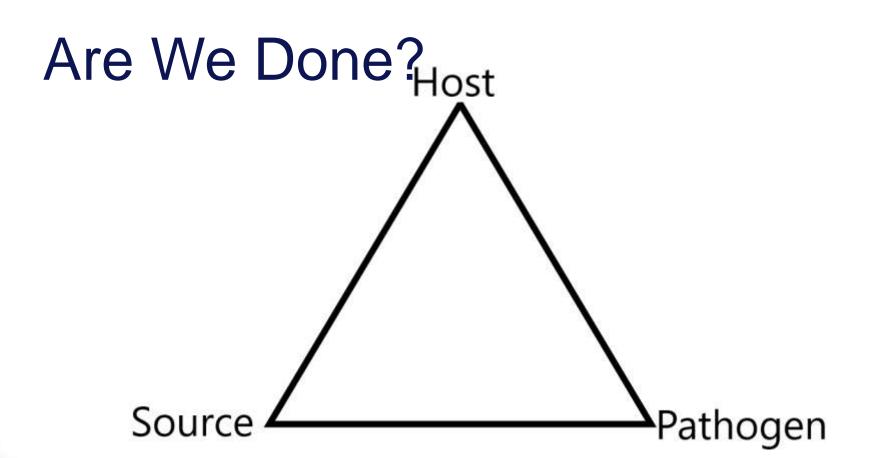
- Commonly found on raw meat and poultry
- Under ideal conditions can multiply very rapidly
- Infection often occurs when foods are prepared in large quantities and kept warm for a long time before serving



### Clost ridium perfringens

- Diarrhea and abdominal cramps within 6 to 24 hours (typically 8 to 12 hours).
- The illness usually begins suddenly and lasts for less than 24 hours.
- The illness is not passed from one person to another.









#### Final numbers

- Outbreak consisted of people eating July 26-30
- Out of an estimated 3,554 customers served, 647 became ill- 18.2% attack rate
- 50 stool kits dropped off, 12 samples collected
- 12 food samples collected





#### Final numbers

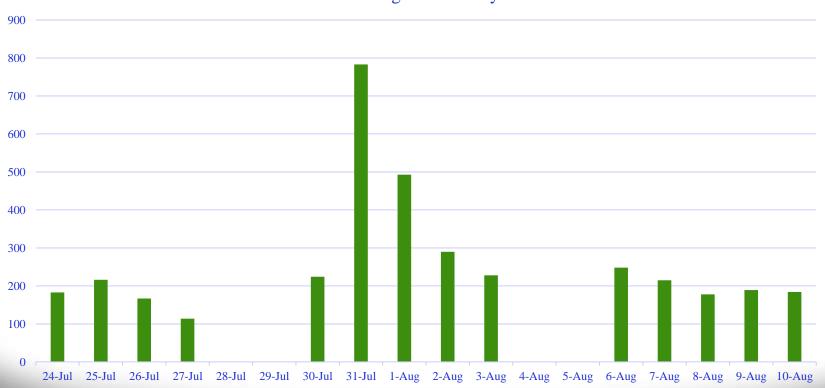
#### Attack Rates by Day, Restaurant A





#### # Inbound calls

# Inbound calls during first few days of outbreak





#### Final numbers- ICS

- DGHD has around 75 total staff
- 46 staff worked on the outbreak
- Remember- those not working directly on the outbreak were doing the work of those who were



# Lessons Learned- What did we learn

- Hitting the pause button
- Not using the word "inquiries"
- Plans procedures
- Additional training for staff who may be involved for outbreaks



# Lessons Learned- what went right

- Frequent updates
- Teamwork, teamwork, teamwork



### A lot of attorney requests

 Numerous requests, from Aug 2018-March 2019





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# QUESTIONS?



