

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, DC

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# FSIS NOTICE

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03-19

2/12/19

## ACTIONS TO TAKE WHEN RAW POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS RECEIVE *CAMPYLOBACTER* TEST RESULTS

### I. PURPOSE

This notice instructs inspection program personnel (IPP) not to take any action in response to FSIS *Campylobacter* test results, unless directed.

### II. BACKGROUND

A. On August 27, 2018, FSIS changed its testing method for *Campylobacter* in raw poultry products. On that date, FSIS laboratories began to use the enrichment method and suspended use of the direct plating method. Due to this method change, FSIS is not currently assessing whether raw poultry establishments meet the *Campylobacter* performance standards. After collecting sufficient data with the enrichment method, FSIS intends to propose and request comments on new *Campylobacter* standards in a *Federal Register* notice prior to finalizing and implementing them.

B. FSIS will continue to share individual *Campylobacter* sampling results with IPP and establishments through the Public Health Information System (PHIS) and a quarterly letter. FSIS will temporarily discontinue posting aggregate category results on the FSIS Web site until sufficient data are generated with the new method. Because FSIS is not currently assessing the *Campylobacter* performance standards, FSIS will not designate categories for establishments based on *Campylobacter* test results, and IPP will not receive Category 2 or 3 alerts.

### III. IPP ACTIONS WHEN ESTABLISHMENTS RECEIVE *CAMPYLOBACTER* RESULTS

A. IPP are to ensure that establishments producing raw poultry products are aware of these changes and are receiving individual and percent positive *Campylobacter* results through the PHIS.

B. IPP are to discuss and document FSIS *Campylobacter* test results during weekly meetings as described in [FSIS Directive 5010.1](#), *Food Safety Related Topics for Discussion During Weekly Meetings with Establishment Management*.

C. At this time, IPP are not to take any further actions related to FSIS test results for *Campylobacter* in raw poultry products, unless directed to do so by their supervisor.

### IV. QUESTIONS

Refer questions regarding this notice to the Office of Policy and Program Development through [AskFSIS](#) or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935. When submitting a question, use the **Submit a Question** tab, and enter the following information in the fields provided:

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**DISTRIBUTION:** Electronic

**NOTICE EXPIRES:** 2/1/20

**OPI:** OPPD

Subject Field: Enter **Notice 03-19**  
Question Field: Enter question with as much detail as possible.  
Product Field: Select **General Inspection Policy** from the drop-down menu.  
Category Field: Select **Sampling - *Campylobacter*** from the drop-down menu.  
Policy Arena: Select **Domestic (U.S.) Only** from the drop-down menu.

When all fields are complete, press **Continue** and at the next screen press **Finish Submitting Question**.

**NOTE:** Refer to [FSIS Directive 5620.1](#), *Using AskFSIS*, for additional information on submitting questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexander J. Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development