



## Agencies to Host a Public Meeting on the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System

On Oct. 24-25, 2017, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)—in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture—will host a public meeting entitled “2017 Scientific Meeting of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS).” The purpose of this meeting is to summarize NARMS’ progress since the last public meeting in 2014, present recommendations made by the recent FDA Science Board review of NARMS in 2017, and to explore possible future directions for NARMS within a One Health paradigm.

The NARMS public meeting will provide a forum for the Federal and State partners, industry, consumers and academia to share their experience and perspectives related to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), as well as the role and application of Whole Genome Sequencing in AMR surveillance. All stakeholders, industry, organizations and other interested individuals are invited to participate in this meeting, and to provide comments to guide the NARMS program into the future.

The public meeting will be held at USDA’s Jefferson Auditorium in Washington, D.C. Further information, including a detailed agenda, registration link and the *Federal Register* is available at <https://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/AntimicrobialResistance/NationalAntimicrobial-ResistanceMonitoringSystem/ucm576281.htm>

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# Secretary Perdue Proclaims National Food Safety Education Month

U.S. Secretary Sonny Perdue has proclaimed September as “National Food Safety Education Month.” In response, FSIS invites everyone to join in preventing the spread of foodborne illnesses. The Agency especially reminds parents of the importance of proper handwashing techniques. Hand washing becomes especially important as the new school year begins, potentially increasing students exposure to harmful germs that can cause disease and illness. During the National Food Safety Education Month, you can help prevent the spread of foodborne illnesses by encouraging everyone in your family to practice effective and routine handwashing. Please visit the FSIS blog for more information at <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/tag/national-food-safety-education-month>

For more information about Secretary Perdue’s proclamation please visit <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-national-food-safety-education-month-proclamation.pdf>

## Agencies to Host a Public Meeting on Whole Genome Sequencing

FSIS—with participation from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), international partners and academic institutions—is hosting a public meeting to discuss practices and plans for collecting and analyzing whole genome sequence (WGS) data, as well as the state of the science and other issues surrounding this technology.

WGS analyses can determine relatedness between bacterial isolates with high resolution, and can characterize genes and other features of bacterial genomes. Currently, FSIS, local, State, and Federal public health and regulatory partners submit WGS data to a Federal public database, readily accessible to Federal and state partners, and other stakeholders, including regulated industry and consumers. Using this common database, Federal food safety partners can share information and collaborate on issues related to food safety and public health. Inclusion of WGS analyses in decision-making will enhance foodborne outbreak investigations, as well as general decisions related to the use of data from routine verification sampling of establishments under FSIS jurisdiction. Industry, interested individuals, organizations, and other stakeholders are invited to participate in the meeting and comment on FSIS’ approaches for using WGS data within a regulatory framework.

This meeting will take place in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 26 and 27. Pre-registration will close on Oct. 22, and there will be no on-site registration. Only registered attendees will be permitted to enter the building. If special accommodations are requested, please register by Oct. 12, 2017. Further information, including a detailed agenda, and registration link is available in the *Federal Register* at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/09/22/2017-20247/use-of-whole-genome-sequence-analysis-to-improve-food-safety-and-public-health> .

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# Policy Updates

FSIS notices and directives on public health and regulatory issues are available at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations>. The following policy update was recently issued:

**Notice 48-17** - *Fiscal Year 2018 Pay Periods and Official Payday Dates*

**Notice 49-17** - *Time and Attendance Reporting Procedures for Pay Period 20*

**Notice 50-17** - *Verification of Adequate Controls at Establishments in Areas Affected by the Recent Hurricanes*

**Notice 51-17** - *Submission of Fiscal Year 2018 Renewal Orders*

**Directive 7160.3 Rev. 2** - *Verification Activities for Advanced Meat Recovery Using Beef Vertebral Raw Materials*

## Export Requirements Updates

The Library of Export Requirements has been updated for the following countries:

None to Report

For a complete list of countries, visit <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products>.

## UPDATE:

## FSIS Testing for *E.coli*



FSIS posts biweekly updates of the Agency's raw ground beef *E. coli* sampling program, which includes testing results of raw ground beef component samples for *E. coli* O157:H7 and Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STECs) from FSIS routine and follow-up sampling programs. Data are also presented for non-O157 STECs by each non-O157 STEC serogroup.

Between June 4, 2012 and Sept. 17, 2017, FSIS laboratory services analyzed 20,124 beef trim samples (16,350 domestic and 3,774 imported), 4,299 routine follow-up samples (4,185 domestic and 114 imported), and 364 non-routine follow-up/traceback samples. A total of one-hundred and ninety-nine samples were found to be positive; 119 were domestic trim samples, eleven were imported trim samples, 65 were domestic follow-up samples, and four were non-routine follow-up/traceback samples. To date, three samples have been positive for both O157:H7 and at least one non-O157 STEC strain, and ten samples have been positive for two different non-O157 O-groups. To view testing results, visit *E. coli* data tables at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/microbiology/ec>.