



Utah RAPID RESPONSE Team

Human and Animal Food

Official Newsletter of the Utah Rapid Response Team

What's New With The URRT

The URRT is excited for what is coming up for the year of 2020. Each month we will be sending out an URRT Newsletter with highlights from the previous month, what is new, and what to look forward in the coming months. For the year of 2020 we have a few dynamic training's to offer our State, Local, Federal partners, Steering Committee, and others who want to be apart of the URRT. This year we will be focusing on:

- Collaborations with Local Health Departments, State and Federal partners
- Holding URRT Steering Committee Meeting's at least every other month
- Have a functional website up and running
- Acquire a supply closet stocked with Go-Kits, which would be used in emergency situations and foodborne illness outbreaks.

The Steering Committee is working to develop a URRT Best Practices Guide, Informational Guides, GIS capabilities, and Training Development.

Food Safety-We Need YOU!

Food safety is something we are all faced with everyday. Each day we try to mitigate the potential risks of food safety. The reason for the URRT is for collaboration across the state to solve and assist in foodborne illness and/or outbreaks. During an outbreak and/or foodborne illness that is beyond your scope the URRT has the resources to assist you. We will help coordinate needs and resources in a collaborative and timely manner.

How to Get Involved

The Steering Committee for the URRT is already established, but there are other ways you can be involved with the URRT. They are attending the training's that we provide, attending other meetings we have throughout the year. If you know someone who would like to be involved with the URRT please contact Talisha Bacon at tbacon@utah.government

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2019 in Review

The URRT attended a Five-State Conference that was held in Denver, Colorado. The Five-State meeting allowed for collaboration with the other RRT's in our region. Joining us from our Steering Committee and Partnerships were an Epidemiologist from the State of Utah Health Department and an Inspector from Manufacture Food from the Department of Agriculture. People in picture from left to right: Travis Waller, Thayne Mickelson, Rick Beckstrand, Dave Gunnell, Delany Moore, and Talisha Bacon.



We had a combined RRT Meeting with the Food Safety Task Force that was held at Lagoon. Thanks to everyone who was in attendance and participated via phone. The picture to the left shows a few members from the URRT Steering Committee names from left to right: Michelle Cooke, Rick Beckstrand, Kathleen Thorsted, Thayne Mickelson, Weston Judd, Talisha Bacon, Cindy Burnett.

The National RRT Conference was held in Louisville, Kentucky. The conference is valuable to highlight integration of partnerships, how to respond to foodborne illness outbreaks, disaster response, and lessons learned. Getting to know other state officials help further our progression in the development of the URRT.



During the conference we presented our poster about the collaborations, partners, and projects we have been working on in the past year. The Utah Poster was received very well with a lot of people asking about how we set up our steering committee, activation levels, and GIS project. People pictured in the URRT group photo are: LaTonya Mitchell from FDA Denver District , Landon Kidd from the Feed Program at the Utah Department of Agriculture, Rick Beckstrand, Travis Waller, Holly Miller from FDA, Thayne Mickelson, and Talisha Bacon. Not pictured: Willy Lanier from USDA-FSIS.

Save the Date



Monthly RRT Teleconference

First Thursday of each month from 12:00pm-1:00pm

The Monthly RRT Teleconferences are on a National level. If you are available please add this teleconference to your calendar. It helps to know what other states are doing in their RRT programs. The number for the call in meetings is 646-828-7666 or 669-254-5252; Meeting ID: 1614242877



January 23 Steering Committee Meeting

We will be discussing the training's we have coming up in the next couple of months, our operations manual, our technology applications, and website(s). This meeting will be from 2:00-4:00 PM in Room 114-Utah Department of Health 288 N. 1460 W., SLC



April 7-8 ER 220 Traceback Training*

Put this on your calendar! We only have 30 spots available. This course is intended for FDA or State Emergency Response Coordinators, investigators, supervisors, or other staff who may conduct or assist with traceback investigations. Please complete the following pre-requisites prior to the Traceback Training available through ComplianceWire:

- TI01 - Introduction
- TI02 - Point-of-Service Investigations
- TI03 - Distributor
- TI04 - Traceback of Eggs and Other Commodities
- TI05 - Concluding the Investigation and Reporting the Results

The training will be held in rooms 104 A&B at the Utah Public Health Lab 4431 South Constitution Blvd. Taylorsville, Utah 84129



May 13 Tabletop Exercise*

You will not want to miss this Tabletop Exercise! This exercise is NOT limited to a number participants! It will be a very informative exercise and well worth your time. More information will be coming out as it gets closer.

*If you are interested in either the ER220 Course or Tabletop Exercise contact Talisha Bacon to sign up for these courses. For the ER220 you need to reserve your spot by 1/31/2020; spots are filling up fast.

Senate Pass Bipartisan 'One Health' Awareness Month Resolution **

DECEMBER 20, 2019

Washington—The Senate yesterday unanimously passed a bipartisan resolution introduced by Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Martha McSally (R-Ariz.) designating January as “National One Health Awareness Month” to promote collaboration between public, animal and environmental health scientists.

One Health is a relatively new term being used by health experts – including at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – to better focus on the linkages between human, animal and environmental health and the need to develop comprehensive solutions. For instance, public health specialists are now working with physicians and veterinarians to minimize the inappropriate use of antibiotics in human and animal patients to combat antibiotic resistance.

“By using the ‘One Health’ approach, global health problems including antibiotic resistance and the spread of infectious diseases can be more easily addressed,” Senator Feinstein said. “Our resolution will hopefully draw attention to the need for holistic approaches to addressing human health that take into account changes in environmental and animal health. With diminishing resources and a growing human population, fighting problems with a ‘One Health’ approach must be encouraged now more than ever.”

“The health of our population is dependent on the interconnection of people, animals, and the environment,” said Senator McSally. “I was glad to join Senator Feinstein in introducing this resolution designating January as National One Health Awareness Month to promote ‘One Health’ and its growing collaboration in order to make our world a healthier place.

”Full text of the resolution follows:

Designating January 2020 as “National One Health Awareness Month” to promote awareness of organizations focused on public health, animal health, and environmental health collaboration throughout the United States and to recognize the critical contributions of those organizations to the future of the United States.

Whereas One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach, working at the local, regional, national, and global levels, with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment;

Senate Pass Bipartisan 'One Health' Awareness Month Resolution Continued

Whereas the mission of One Health is to establish closer professional interactions, collaborations, and educational opportunities across the various medical, veterinary, and environmental health professions and their allied science professions to simultaneously improve public health, animal health, and environmental health;

Whereas the increasing threats posed by emerging diseases shared between animals and people, foodborne, vector-borne, and waterborne diseases, and other environmental factors may support the need for an integrated effort by professionals from multiple disciplines, including health, science, technology, and engineering;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, up to 75 percent of new or emerging infectious diseases in people are spread by animals;

Whereas, each year, International One Health Day is November 3; and

Whereas One Health is essential to combating and strengthening the surveillance of emerging and reemerging diseases: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates January 2020 as “National One Health Awareness Month” to—

1. promote awareness of organizations that focus on One Health efforts to improve the quality of life for people and animals;
2. recognize the efforts made by such organizations in using a One Health approach to prevent epidemics; and
3. recognize the importance of using the One Health approach to simultaneously protect the health of people, animals, plants, and the environment in the United States.

** This article came from our National RRT weekly updates.

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