



Utah RAPID RESPONSE Team

Human and Animal Food

Official Newsletter of the Utah Rapid Response Team (URRT)



Quarterly Review

Here are the highlights of what happened with the URRT in the 4th quarter of 2020 (October- December):

October: The URRT attended and presented at the Virtual 5 State Meeting and the Utah Environmental Health Association Virtual Fall Conference. The URRT also held their mobile field exercise this month, which was a great success. We tested our equipment, go-kits, and capabilities as a URRT. We were also able to practice setting up an Incident Command Post (ICP) in a matter of minutes for response due to outbreaks. We had a great turnout from across the state and were very appreciative to everyone who came and participated.

November: The URRT hosted the Utah Food Safety Task Force Meeting, which included presentations from Utah Department Of Health, Lagoon, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, and the Division of Emergency Management. The URRT is also participating in the High Volume/ DEUF Sampling Water workgroup that is sponsored through the National Rapid Response Team.

December: The URRT attended and presented twice at the National RRT Conference. The first presentation was part of the roundtable breakout sessions on how to set up a Mobile Incident Post within minutes, this was based on our Mobile Field Exercise we had in October. The second presentation was in regards to the Earthquake that happened in March. Holly Miller presented on the FDA response, Thayne Mickelson presented on the EOC response, and Talisha Bacon presented on the URRT response.

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Steering Committee Spotlight - Michelle Cooke

1. Describe your job in about 25 words? I am currently working as an Environmental Health Program Manager for Weber-Morgan Health Department, I oversee about 15 different programs a few being Food Service, Pools, Drinking water.

2. What's one thing - industry-related you learned in the last year? Flexibility! We have seen a year that we never thought we would see, it seems that everything is changing almost on a daily basis. Being flexible and resilient seem to be the only way to make it through this rough time. Also a little a little jocularity goes along way!

3. What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most? I love the unique challenges and the variety of Environmental Health. I have learned over the years that it is best not to plan too much, because once you pick up the phone in the morning it seems like everything changes and you are off in another direction that what you thought your day was going to be.

4. What is one thing unique about you that people would be surprised if they knew? I am a farm girl at heart, I spent most of my childhood on a farm in Holbrook ID. We spent most of our time riding horses, swimming in the watering trough (building those antibodies) and all the other exciting things to do on a farm. I was also in the Junior posse and did some barrel racing and pole bending. Life was good!!!

5. How has your agency been influenced by the partnership with the URRT? Fortunately we have not had any outbreaks that might require assistance from URRT. But, it is nice to know that there is some backup support when things get crazy.

6. What is your favorite quote or personal mantra? Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind

Steering Committee

Talisha Bacon
URRT Coordinator

Thayne Mickelson
URRT Director

FDA

Holly Miller (Primary)
Travis Jensen (Alternate)

LHD

Michelle Cooke

UDAF Manufactured Food
Rick Beckstrand (Primary)
Jay Schvaneveldt (Alternate)

UDAF Animal and Feed
Mark Ashcroft (Primary)
Landen Kidd (Alternate)

UDAF Lab
Brandon Forsyth (Primary)
Kathleen Thorsted
(Alternate)

UDOH Epi.
Delaney Moore (Primary)
Cindy Burnett (Alternate)

UDOH
Mark Jones (Primary)

UPHL
Kelly Oakeson (Primary)

USDA-FSIS
Keith Banta (Primary)
Willy Lanier (Alternate)

Steering Committee Spotlight - Glendell "Keith" Banta

- 1. Describe your job in about 25 words?** As a investigator with USDA/FSIS/CID/OIEA I am responsible for meat, poultry, eggs and catfish in commerce. I ensure that all these products meet all the requirements of the FMIA, PPIA, EPIA. I also work food borne illness investigations and conduct in commerce recall activities.
- 2. What's one thing - industry-related you learned in the last year?** In the last year my agency has taken over the custom exempt reviews and custom operators and have had the chance to learn a lot about that process. Specifically the records that are required to support that the product was intended for custom slaughter.
- 3. What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?** I really enjoy the puzzle of putting a case together. Finding the evidence and make sure we can prove the case in court if needed. Although stressful the times flies at work when working a big case.
- 4. What is one thing unique about you that people would be surprised if they knew?** I am an avid runner of obstacle courses. I have completed over 8 full length Tough Mudder events and plan to run in the World Toughest Mudder at some point. Although Covid has put a hamper on my training and I have become lazy it is still a goal of mine. Lol
- 5. How has your agency been influenced by the partnership with the URRT?** I believe the ability to communicate rapidly and know all the players and there jobs in the area has been a huge positive aspect of the URRT. Being able to reach out in the day to day to program employees when something arises is a game changer and makes all of us more efficient.
- 6. What is your favorite quote or personal mantra?** "If everyone is thinking alike then someone isn't thinking." - Patton. I think this goes well with our URRT group. Many people and agencies looking at a situation will definitely increases our chances of solving the issue because we all bring different thoughts and experience to the table.

Whole-Genome Sequencing of Foodborne Pathogens

By, Dr. Kelly F. Oakeson Utah Public Health Laboratory September 30, 2020

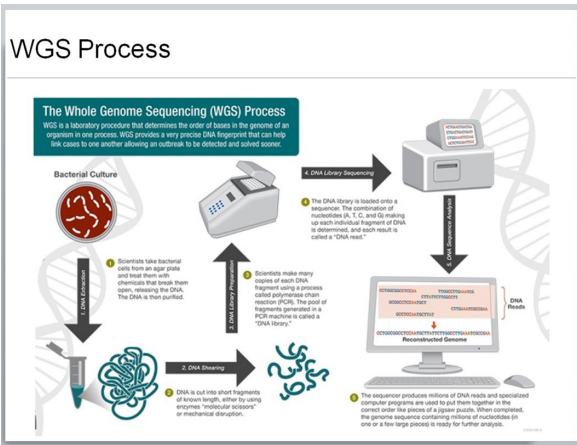
The Utah Public Health Laboratory (UPHL) is an active member of the Utah Rapid Response Team (URRT) and provides cutting edge whole-genome sequencing (WGS) to help the URRT respond quickly to food-related illness outbreaks. The genome, or genetic material, of an organism (bacteria, potato, human), is made up of DNA. Each organism has a unique DNA sequence composed of bases (A, T, C, and G). If you know the sequence of the bases in an organism, you have identified its unique DNA fingerprint or pattern. Determining the order of bases is called sequencing. Whole-genome sequencing

is a laboratory procedure that determines the order of bases in an organism's genome in one process. Analysis of the WGS data allows us to identify the pathogen, determine the relatedness of pathogens to each other, an outbreak of illness, and identify common infection sources. Additionally, the analysis of WGS data can also provide information about a pathogen's ability to be resistant to an antibiotic and provide insight into the virulence and toxin-producing capabilities of a pathogen.

Since 2016 UPHL has used WGS data to monitor foodborne bacteria and investigate numerous outbreaks, including the recent E. coli outbreak linked to clover sprouts, the ongoing outbreak of Salmonella from backyard poultry, and most recently, the Salmonella outbreak linked raw onions. WGS data in outbreaks allows us to detect the outbreaks sooner while they are still small and act quickly to help prevent the outbreak from spreading.

WGS techniques can be applied to more than just foodborne illness; UPHL has applied viral WGS to aid in Utah's public health response to COVID-19. In much the same way that WGS data is used to track and link foodborne illness, we can track the spread and relatedness of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

The use of this cutting-edge technology allows the URRT to rapidly respond to food-related illness outbreak to protect human and animal health in Utah and provide a useful tool for identifying and controlling microbial threats to the public health of Utah.



2020 URRT Steering Committee Accomplishments

- Activations
 - Salmonella Newport Outbreak
 - 5.8 Earthquake
 - E-Coli 0103 Outbreak
- Committees
 - Regional Resiliency Assessment Program (RRAP)
 - Feeding Task Force
 - A Mask for Every Utahn Task Force
 - Utah Food Safety Task Force
 - High Volume/ DEUF Sampling Water workgroup
 - FoodCORE Meetings
- Conferences
 - ER 324 Epi Ready Training
 - ER 220 Train the Trainer Traceback Training Anaheim, CA
 - MFRPA Conference - Spokane, WA
 - Five-State Meeting
 - National C2C RRT Conference
- Presentations
 - "Rapid Response"- UEHA Conference
 - "Utah RRT Activations & Activities" - 5 state Meeting
 - " Shaking in Utah" National RRT Conference Panel Presentation
 - " Mobile Field Command Post" - National RRT Conference Presentation Roundtable
 - "Utah RRT and Emergency Preparedness" - Engineering Group at Rocky Mountain Power
 - "Whole-Genome Sequencing of Foodborne Pathogens" by Dr. Kelly Oakeson- National RRT Call
- Projects
 - COVID-19 Response and Challenges
 - Equipment
 - Go-Kits Completed
 - Purchase of trailer
 - Monthly Steering Committee Meetings
 - National C2C Conference
 - URRT Signal Flag
 - URRT Poster
 - Technology
 - URRT Website
 - Developing URRT App
 - Training
 - Mobile Field Exercise
 - A handful of others where scheduled, but had to cancel due to COVID-19
 - Reports
 - Grant reports
 - Food Safety Task Force Grant
 - State EOC
 - ESF 11 Response and Meetings
 - Coordination with ESF 6



2020 URRT Pictures

Mobile Field Exercise



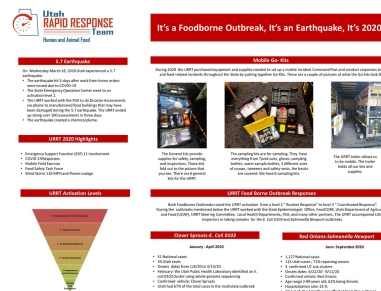
Assembly of Go-Kits



Trailer



National RRT Conference



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.



FoodCORE Project Meeting

Second Thursday of each month from 11:00am-12:00pm



URRT Steering Committee Virtual Meeting

Fourth Thursday of each month from 1:00pm-3:00pm



Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance (MFRPA) Meeting

February 2-4, 2021. This will be a virtual meeting. For more information visit mfrpa.org

Subscribe

If you would like to receive the URRT Newsletter send an email to Talisha Bacon at tbacon@utah.gov.