FDA’s Perspective on Food Safety and Availability During and Beyond COVID-19
The FDA has been assuring the American public that there is no nationwide shortage of food, that local outages of certain products are the result of unprecedented demand during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, there are reports of food plants closing because of illnesses and farmers dumping milk and plowing under crops because their customers, including restaurants and schools, have been closed by social distancing mandates.

In a new FDA Q&A, Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy and Response Frank Yiannas talks about the state of the U.S. food supply, both now and beyond this public health crisis. The topics he covers include food safety and food availability, as well as an update on implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act and plans to release a blueprint for the New Era of Smarter Food Safety initiative. Read his insight here.

Food Recalls in the COVID-19 Era Are a Little More Erratic Than Usual
FOOD SAFETY NEWS -- Everyone who tracks food recalls knows they are an unpredictable and erratic occurrence. But even given that reality, food recalls during the past 30 days or so have been in a weird space. Maybe the federal government’s “all hands on deck” response to the COVID-19 pandemic has not had anything to do with it, but the... Continue Reading

NACCHO Virtual Sharing Session on Food Safety and COVID-19

A panel of food safety experts will present on food safety considerations during the COVID-19 pandemic on April 22 from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Eastern time. Topics that will be addressed include what is known about basic food safety and contact surface sanitation issues and what local retail food regulators can do to minimize the impact of COVID-19 in food establishments.

Participants will have the opportunity to exchange ideas with their peers virtually throughout the session and ask questions.

Presenters:

- Dr. Brian Nummer, Utah State University Food Safety Extension
- Dr. Ben Chapman, North Carolina University.
- Dr. Donald Schaffner, Rutgers University

Use the following link to register for the session -

https://mailchi.mp/a350d87bdebd/enews-from-afdo-92418-join-us-for-a-webinar-890562?e=[UNIQID]
Body Art Education Alliance Statements on COVID-19

The Body Art Education Alliance (BAEA) supports the current guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for preventing the spread and infection of COVID-19. Your health and well-being are of utmost importance and we do not support performing or receiving body art procedures during the pandemic. Read the media release....

Pre-Petition Correspondence, Titanium Dioxide For Use in Permanent Makeup and Tattoo Ink

The Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) intends to submit a Color Additive Petition (CAP) for the use of titanium dioxide (TiO2) as a color additive in permanent makeup and tattoo ink cosmetics. AFDO is asking FDA for guidance in filing the proper documents required to extend the existing approvals for TiO2 to include use in permanent makeup and tattoo ink. Read the full Pre-CAP Correspondence....

Podcast: Changing Behaviors in Food Safety
We have spent the past month working to change behaviors like handwashing and social distancing at a rapid pace in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Jennifer Tabanico, President of Action Research, says the research shows that one approach that has been successful is community-based social marketing. We sat down with her in January before the COVID-19 crisis but her approach has application even now. Check out her audio and video webcasts.

You can access the AFDO podcast catalog at the following links. Videos can be found at https://afdo.podbean.com/ and audio podcasts at https://afdoaudio.podbean.com/. Or download the AFDO app (IT'S FREE) so you can listen or watch on the go. The app is available for iPhone and Android.

AFDO Recommendations For COVID-19 Response for State Agencies

AFDO has released recommendations for state agencies during the current pandemic crisis. These recommendation sections include:

- Conducting Routine Inspections During COVID-19 Pandemic
- Inspector’s Responding to a Firm’s Health Related Questions During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Requiring Gloves and Masks for All Employees in Food Manufacturing Facilities and Establishments During the COVID-19 Pandemic

This document can be found here.
The Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Food and Cosmetic Information Center (FCIC)/Technical Assistance Network (TAN) continue to released responses for questions of interest to AFDO members regarding COVID-19. These answers can be found here.

It's important to check back frequently for the latest as well as visit the AFDO COVID-19 Resource Page.

This is in addition to updating its COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions page to include guidance regarding food products. Real time updates of the FDA's Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) page can be found at https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/food-safety-and-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19. Updates are dated so you are able to tell what information has been added each time.

As part of the AFDO commitment to providing information and resources to members and the those we serve, we continue to add resources to the COVID-19 Resource Page. We continue to offer links to information that has been developed by our partnerships and other subject matter experts. If you identify resources that should be considered or your organization develops some of your own that can be shared with other members, please email them or the link to bbenschoter@afdo.org. We appreciate everyone who helps us be more prepared.
Analytical Cannabis On-line Expo 2020
Free One-Day Online Symposium

The Analytical Cannabis Expo 2020, set to be hosted in San Francisco March 24-25, was recently cancelled due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak. As an organization we are determined to provide our speakers and partners with a platform to discuss the innovative research and industry leading science they had lined up for our event.

As such, we are delighted to be hosting a free to attend 1-day online symposium which will feature a selection of the incredible speakers that were due to speak in San Francisco. Beyond the talks, this event will also allow you to interact with our speakers through live Q & A sessions and engage with your fellow participants through networking chatrooms.

Date: April 30, 2020.

Confirmed Speakers

- Dr Susan Audino
- Dr Swetha Kaul
- Josh Smith
- Dr Toby Astill
- Dr Chris Beecher
AFDO Professional Development Series Adds More Offerings

AFDO is offering a series of FREE webinars and web-based training courses that can be utilized for staff development. AFDO anticipates providing a variety of courses and webinars along with our regular podcasts over the next several weeks. Because we are continuously developing new offerings, please visit this webpage on a regular basis to look for the latest training courses.

In addition, you can access the AFDO podcast catalog at the following links. Videos can be found at https://afdo.podbean.com/ and audio podcasts at https://afdoaudio.podbean.com/. Or download the AFDO app (IT'S FREE) so you can listen or watch on the go. The app is available for iPhone and Android.

No CEU's or Certificates of Attendance will be available for these sessions.

Today: Cannabis 101 - Webinar

Join us for an exploration and discussion on the history of cannabis, how cannabis works in the body, and the evolution of cannabis as medicine. Attendees will also gain a high level understanding of the cannabis supply chain, available products, quality and safety issues, as well as the challenges in regulating cannabis.

*Registration is limited to 1,000 seats

NEHA Offers Free Training Too

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing, shelter-in-place orders, and the cancellation of local conferences, meetings, and events, environmental health professionals are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain access to continuing education and training.

In response to this need, NEHA is offering free access to online trainings to all environmental health professionals regardless of membership status starting on March 30, 2020. The online trainings include our webinars, partner courses, and E-Learning videos of sessions from the 2017–2019 AECs. By watching these webinars, courses, and videos, environmental health professionals can earn continuing education contact hours toward their NEHA credentials. Check out these offerings here.

Call for Nominations!

The chair of the nominations committee, Steve Moris is seeking nominations for the following board positions:

**Vice President**
Nominees for the position of AFDO Board Vice President should have at least two years’ experience in food or medical products program management (i.e., Administrator, Deputy Director, Director, leadership experience), AND two years’ experience of any of the below:
AFDO board member or committee chair,

- Have worked on an AFDO project or been on an AFDO subcommittee,
- Affiliate board member or committee chair,
- Active involvement in a similar organization such as the Partnership for Food Protection, in a chair/co-chair position, and/or
- Any other combination of leadership experience that would allow the candidate to successfully fulfil this role.
Secretary/Treasurer
The individual currently filling this vacancy plans to run for the full term position.

Nominees for the position of AFDO Secretary/Treasurer are selected by the Past-President. This position serves a three-year term. Duties for this position include:

1. Records the minutes of each meeting of the Executive Committee and distributes copies to the Board of Directors.
2. Records the minutes of all business sessions conducted during the Annual Conference.
3. Reviews all bank statement reconciliations that are forwarded by the Association accountant.
4. Serves as signatory along with the Association Manager for checks over $15,000.
5. Ensures an annual audit of the Association funds, reviews findings from the audit, and provides recommendations to the Board.
6. Works with the Association Manager to ensure a copy of the annual tax return (IRS Form 990) has been filed with the Internal Revenue Service by November 15.
7. Assist with the development of the annual association budget.

Director-at-Large
The individual currently filling this vacancy plans to run for the full term position.

Nominees for the position of AFDO Director-at-Large are selected by the Past-President. This position serves a four-year term. Should have at least two years’ experience in food or medical products program management including field supervision, project management, and/or direct leadership experience (i.e. Administrator, Deputy Director, Director; not necessarily field supervision but Director/leadership experience), AND two years’ experience of any of the below:
AFDO board member or committee chair,

- Have worked on an AFDO project or been on an AFDO subcommittee,
- Affiliate board member or committee chair,
- Active involvement in a similar organization such as the Partnership for Food Protection, in a chair/co-chair position, and/or
- Any other combination of leadership experience that would allow the candidate to successfully fulfill this role.

All board openings have candidates running for these positions.

Please email nominations with a bio to Steve Moris (steve.moris@ks.gov) and Krystal Reed (kreed@afdo.org) by Thursday, April 30, 2020.
FDA Releases Updated Chapters and Appendixes to the Fish and Fishery Products Hazards and Controls Guidance, Fourth Edition

The US Food and Drug Administration's Division of Seafood Safety is announcing the availability of specific chapters and appendixes of the “Fish and Fishery Products Hazards and Controls Guidance, Fourth Edition” now dated March 2020. FDA has determined specific chapters and appendixes of the guidance could be updated with the availability of new science, opposed to withholding the information to publish the entire guidance at once. With that thought in mind, FDA has updated: Appendix 5 - FDA and EPA Safety Levels in Regulations and Guidance. The Appendix modifications may be reviewed through the “Guidance to Industry: Fish and Fishery Products Hazards and Controls Guidance Fourth Edition – March 2020” section of the guidance document. The updated guidance supports and complements FDA's regulations for the safe and sanitary processing and importing of the fish and fishery products using hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) methods. Updates may be accessed through FDA's Seafood website at www.fda.gov/seafood or the Fish and Fishery Products Hazards and Controls Guidance Page.

This guidance represents the Agency’s current thinking on fish and fishery hazards and controls. It does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and does not operate to bind FDA or the public. An alternate approach may be used if such approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations.

Other Training Opportunities

Preventive Controls for Human Foods and Foreign Supplier Verification Programs

Intentional Adulteration Conducting Vulnerability Assessments (IAVA) – 1 Day
Course Information/Schedule Page

Preventive Controls for Human Foods Course (PCQI) – 3 Day
Course Information/Schedule Page
Course Information/Schedule Page

Foreign Supplier Verification Programs Course (FSVP) – 2 Day
Course Information/Schedule Page

EAS Consulting Group Training

Dietary Supplement Labeling Compliance Seminar
April 14 - 15, 2020 - Long Island, NY

Food Labeling Compliance Seminar
April 16 - 17, 2020 - Long Island, NY

EAS Complimentary On-Demand Webinar Understanding GRAS Submissions and Avoiding Data Pitfalls
April 16, 2020, 1:00PM ET

Lockout-Tagout

Fast Tracking Antimicrobial Agents – FDA's Accelerated Programs EAS Complimentary Webinar
April 22, 2020

The Food Safety Doctor LLC

Promoting Public Health and Food Safety through Training and FSMA Awareness

While sheltering in place, The Food Safety Doctor LLC is offering

- ONLINE Preventive Controls for Human Foods (PCQI) Courses
  - April 21-23
  - May 5-7
Click here to access the schedule of online PCQI Courses

- ONLINE Foreign Supplier Verification Courses (FSVP-QI) Courses
  - April 14-15
  - May 19-20
  - June (Date Pending)
  - Click here to access the schedule of online FSVP-QI courses

### Laws and Regulations Committee Updates

#### Laws and Regulations Committee Update

*A collection of current food, drug, device, and consumer product regulatory issues and news*

April 13 - 15, 2020
April 16 - 17, 2020