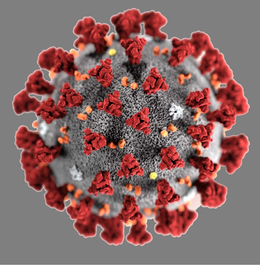


Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

MDARD Regulating and Responding—Special Coronavirus Edition

Contributors: MDARD and FDA RRT

One Bad Apple Table-Top Exercise

Scope: On 02/19, this exercise included a limited discussion based on operational capabilities associated with the plans, processes and procedures of a food safety incident and the associated recall and assurance processes.

Participants: Federal, State and Local partners from MDARD, FDA, MDNR, MSP, MDHHS, FBI, DHS, MALPH, USDA, Conservation districts, Local Emergency Management and Health Departments totaling 120 participants.

Outcomes:

1. Diversity created an excellent opportunity to practice skills to prepare for real life emergencies at Federal, State and Local Governments. Strengths and areas for improvement were identified.
2. This was the last big in-person exercise prior to Covid.
3. All documents and materials were posted on FoodSHIELD.

Cow Death Investigation Activities

Notification: On 04/17, MDARD Animal Feed Safety Section received a complaint alleging cow deaths possibly linked to feed ingredients from a manufacturer instate.

Investigation: On 04/18, MDARD inspector called the facility to discuss proper COVID-19 protocols for an onsite investigation. On 04/20, onsite investigation began and consisted of a primary inspector inspecting, multiple components at multiple facilities in the production chain. On 04/28, additional MDARD inspector followed up on a possible secondary report of cow deaths. Through-out the investigation, virtual meetings with MDARD Feed Team, MDARD laboratory, veterinarians, FDA, FDA-CVM, and industry management took place.

Joint Inspection: MDARD met with FDA to request a joint Preventive Controls inspection for this facility. FDA obtained special permission to join MDARD and in May, an MDARD and FDA PC inspection was conducted.

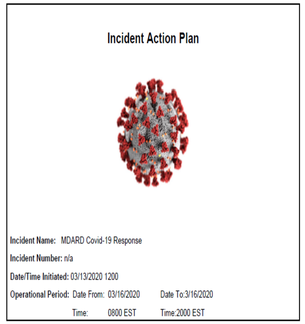
Sampling: The investigation led to the collection and analysis of more than 25 physical samples of molasses, straw, corn silage, liquid feed supplements, and other ingredients. These were analyzed for Salmonella, Listeria, other pathogens, coliforms, mycotoxins, anaerobic culture, pH and water activity. Testing took place at MDARD's Geagley lab and external labs within and outside of Michigan. Veterinary diagnostic tissue sample tests were also reviewed and analyzed.

Outcomes:

1. Coordinated during Covid to complete the investigation and a joint PC inspection.
2. Controls were implemented for safer feed ingredient manufacturing.
3. The Feed program reviewed procedures and equipment used for sampling and chain of custody and is updating based on this case.
4. The Feed Program is working to update procedures for samples analysis at non-MDARD laboratories.

Photo depicts molasses from a bulk tank

MDARD Incident Management Team Activation



Activation: The MDARD Departmental Incident Management Team was activated on 03/13/2020

Impact: Over the activation, two separate teams were identified, consisting of a combination of 43 MDARD staff. The team was activated for nine operational periods from 03/16-3/27.

Main Objectives:

1. Provide for health, welfare, and safety of MDARD employees and stakeholders.
2. .Facilitate and implement broad telework
3. Manage communications to staff and stakeholders
4. Plan for and mitigate long-term impacts to MDARD's ability to perform critical function

Outcomes:

1. Ensured that most MDARD staff had ability to work remotely from 257 home offices.
2. Managed the 1000s of messages and requests for information
3. Shared appropriate messages with staff and stakeholders
4. Updated current Emergency Response plans to consider Covid lessons learned.

MDARD Incident Management Team Deployments

During the Coronavirus response, MDARD had over 30 volunteers representing every division within MDARD willing to serve on Incident Management Teams at multiple field hospitals. Those who deployed to Detroit and Novi worked with Health Service partners, MDHHS, DMVA, DNR, DTMB, Michigan National Guard, MSP, local law enforcement, and Federal partners: FEMA, U.S. Air Force Civil Air Patrol, Army Corps of Engineers, Army Reserve, DHHS, Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

SCS Temporary Care Center

10 MDARD staff trained in emergency management volunteered their time, energy, and passion for helping others to execute the operations of the field hospital. The team worked quickly to adapt to the rapidly changing situation.

Epidemiologist

The MDARD RRT Epidemiologist liaised between MDHHS and MDARD to support statewide epidemiologists in the state's COVID-19 response.

The TCF Center

Five MDARD staff deployed to coordinate the Planning Section, Logistic Section, and to inspect food orders and deliveries to ensure patients, first responders, and everyone supporting the TCF Care Center field hospital received safe food

Laboratory Deployment

Four Geagley lab staff were deployed to the MDHHS State Health Lab to support the state's response. Their deployment has been extensive and very beneficial; yet another important contribution to public health.

Hand Sanitizer Manufacturing

Problem: Covid 19 disrupted the ability for MDARD staff to obtain hand sanitizer for safety.

Solution: The MDARD Lab division activated to complete the following:

1. Utilized FDA formulations and rules for hand sanitizer mixing and labeling.
2. Ordered supplies including Isopropyl Alcohol, Hydrogen Peroxide and Glycerin.
3. Chemistry staff produced an initial batch of 360 8oz bottles and determined the process for making sterile water and measuring all the components
4. Additional staff from throughout the laboratory were brought in to assist.

Outcome: over the span of 6 days, the laboratory produced a total of 855 liters of sanitizer which were packaged, labeled, and distributed to MDARD field staff across the state.

Challenges:

1. It was difficult to find containers large enough to make hand sanitizer in large batches before dispensing to smaller containers.
2. Obtaining enough containers of appropriate construct to hold the hand sanitizer was also difficult. The original containers obtained were not durable enough and the isopropyl alcohol disintegrated some of the containers.

Hand Sanitizer Testing

Problem: The Food and Drug Administration was warning consumers that some sanitizer brands may not be strong enough to kill the coronavirus.

Solution: During August and September, MDARD's Weights and Measures Program conducted a survey of hand sanitizers available at the retail level. Weights and Measures staff were tasked with obtaining samples across the state. Michigan's Weights and Measures Act requires that labeling of products is accurate and not misleading. This also provided the authority to remove those products from sale that did not meet label declarations.

Photo Shows Sanitizer Testing Equipment

Outcomes:

1. Over the two-month period, a total of 119 samples were collected from retailers across the state.
2. Testing and analysis determined:
   - only 29 sanitizers (24 percent) met the manufacturer's declared alcohol content stated on the label.
   - 88 sanitizers (74 percent) contained an alcohol content of 60 percent or higher, the minimum required to be considered effective per FDA.
3. The second phase of this market survey will begin in October and continue through the end of the year.