

# INCREASE IN CYCLOSPORA CASES : SUMMER 2020

Emilee Melchior, Jennifer Hutson, RS, Traci Hudson, MS  
Charleston, WV; Bluefield, WV; Fairmont, WV; Lewisburg, WV; Ranson, WV

## Overview

On June 24, 2020, the CDC announced that an ongoing outbreak of Cyclospora infections in the Midwestern U.S. that had been linked to consumption of bagged salad mix

WVRRT was notified on June 30, 2020 of 4 Cyclospora cases

These cases were in 4 counties

- Mercer
- Greenbrier
- Marion
- Jefferson

Food samples were sent to WV Department of Agriculture laboratory

## History of Cyclospora in WV

On average, West Virginia sees 4 cases of Cyclospora per year and are typically not domestically acquired. In 2020 WV had 5 cases reported cases of Cyclospora in a 1-month time frame.

None of these cases had traveled and only one case could recall consuming bagged salad.

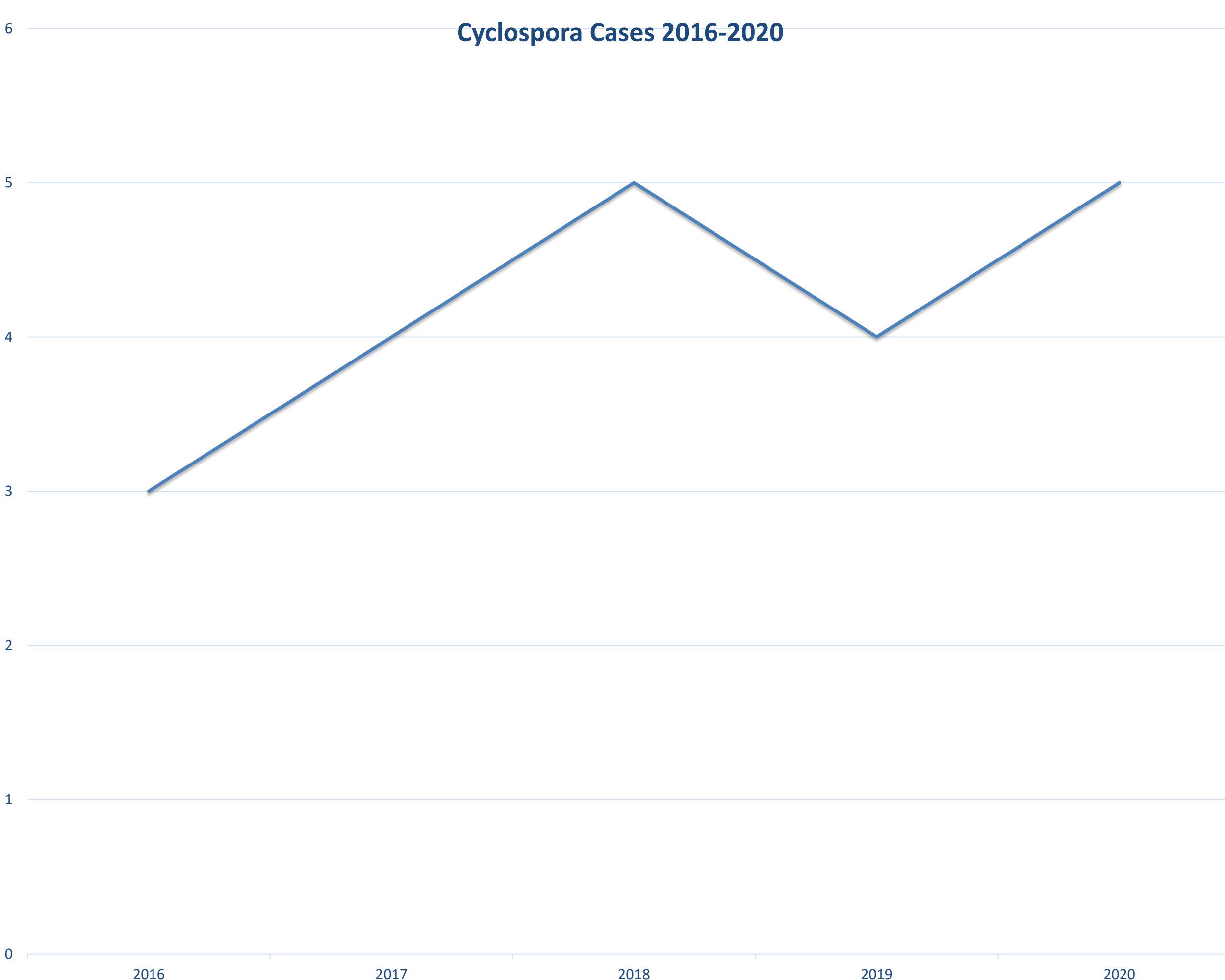
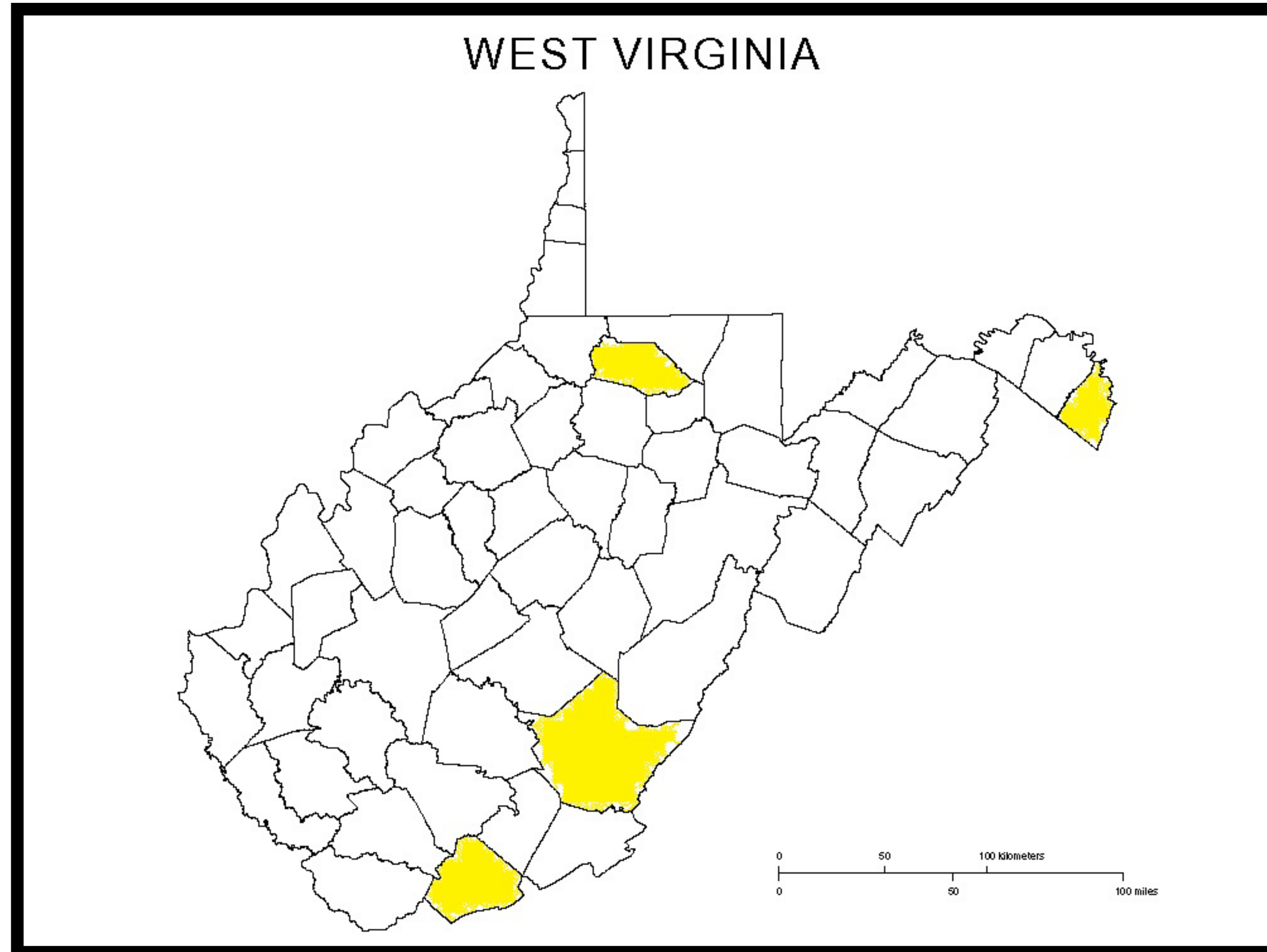


Table 1. Graph that shows the increase in Cyclospora cases from 2016-2020



## Food Safety Actions

Mercer County Health Department, Greenbrier Health Department, Marion County Health Department and Jefferson County Health Department were contacted by WV Bureau for Public Health Staff and asked to do in depth food histories and CDC questioners. Each health department also performed recall verifications and conducted risk-based follow up with restaurants and grocery stores identify by interviews.

Product potentially implicated in Mercer County was available to be shipped to the WV Department of Agriculture Food Laboratory. Mercer County Health Department shipped two food samples of products consumed by individuals with Cyclosporiasis who were recognized as cases.

Individuals had consumed a chicken crisper product with a side of broccoli at a chain restaurant and had remaining product. Product was shipped to the Laboratory. Results were negative for Cyclospora.

## Results and Discussion

While working with local health departments on this response it became clear that a review of procedures regarding foodborne illness outbreaks and food sampling was needed.

WV Office of Environmental Health Services, Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services and FDA Baltimore District Office staff collaborated to Cyclospora outbreak and response training to local health department Sanitarians. Training included:

1. Cyclosporiasis Highlights
2. Multi-State Cyclospora Outbreaks
  - a. Current Outbreak
  - b. Recent Outbreak History in US
3. Outbreak Recognition and Timely Reporting
4. Foodborne Illness Outbreak Investigation Manual and Other Resources

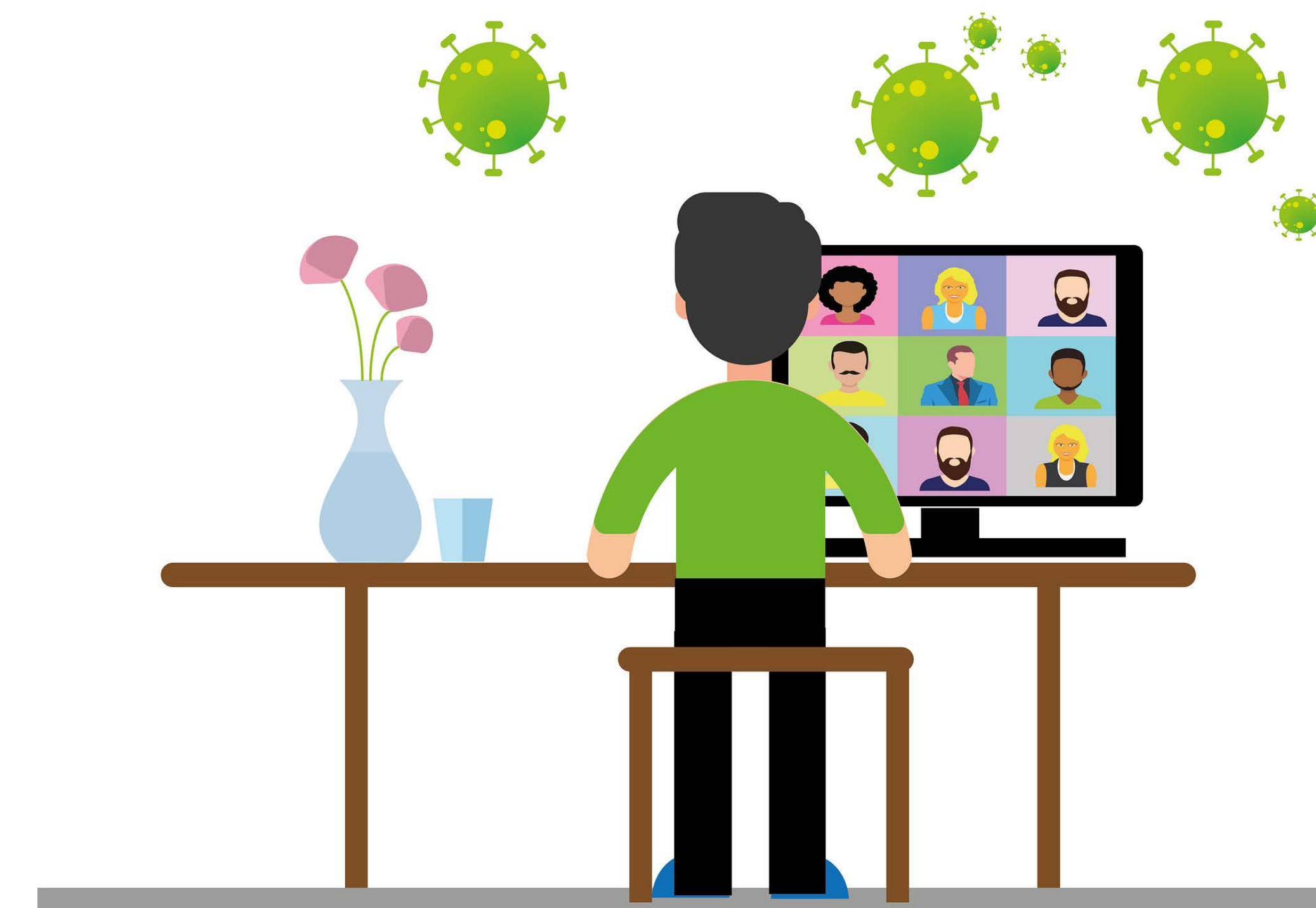
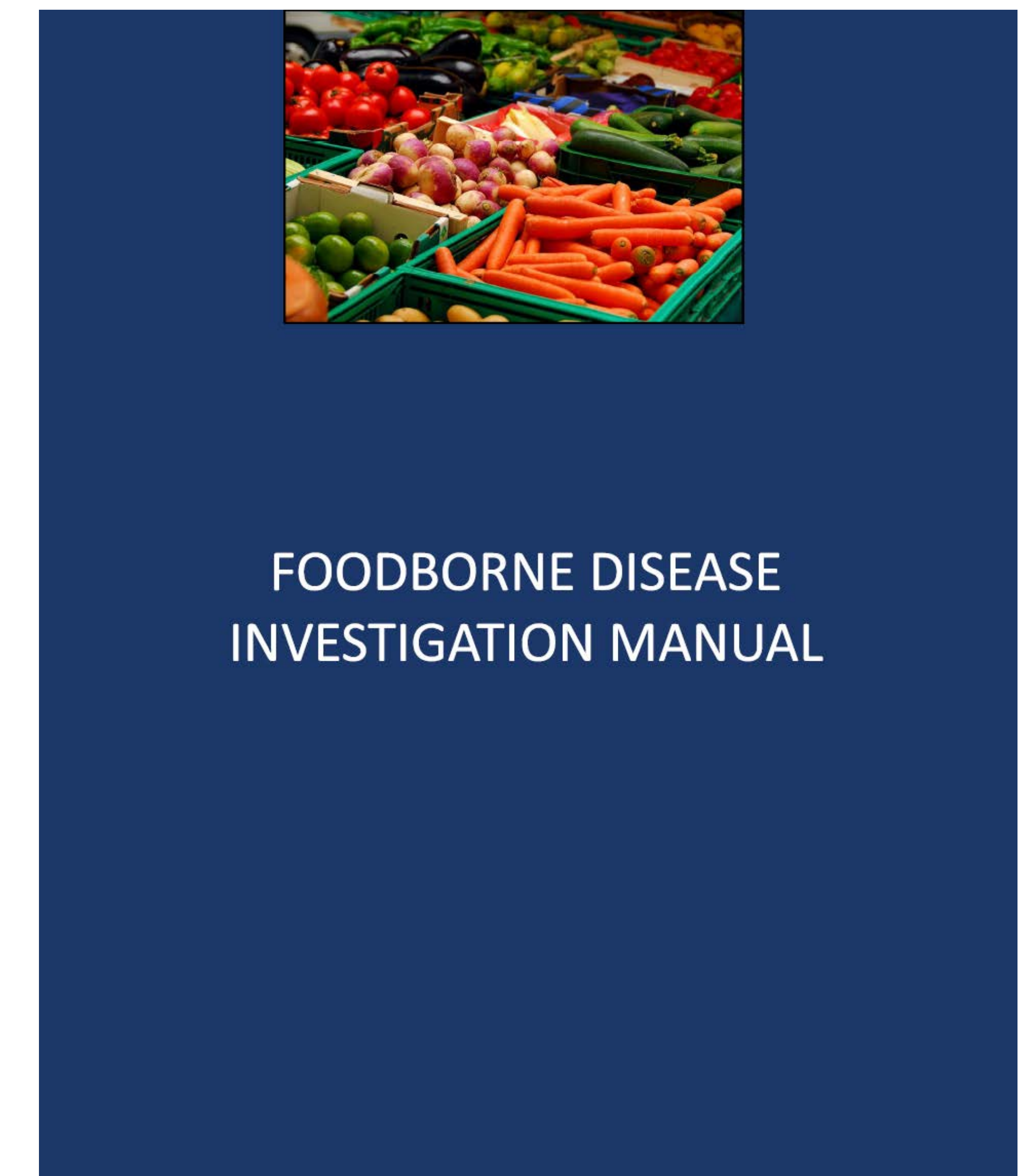


Figure 1. Training is held in a virtual setting due to COVID-19 pandemic

Figure 2. WV Foodborne Disease Investigation Manual used to train Local Health Department employees



## Conclusion

WV RRT found no link between the recalled bagged salad mix implicated in Cyclospora infection in the Midwestern U.S. and the increased cases in West Virginia.

Increased incidence of the disease in West Virginia indicates a need to begin routine surveillance during the times that Cyclospora is prevalent within our state.

Summer of 2020 Outbreak also spurred the initiative to create just in time training models based on outbreak specific needs and WV Foodborne Illness Disease Investigation Manual which supports sampling products and risk-based environmental assessments.