

# HEALTHY PEOPLE 2030: Norovirus Working Group

## Duty Statement

### Background

The Healthy People initiative is designed to guide national health promotion and disease prevention efforts to improve the health of the nation. Released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) every decade since 1980, Healthy People identifies science-based objectives with targets to monitor progress and motivate and focus action. Healthy People 2030 (HP2030) is the current iteration of the Healthy People initiative and is available at [HealthyPeople.gov](https://www.healthypeople.gov).

HP2030 is the fifth iteration of the initiative. Launched on August 18, 2020, HP2030 features a framework that includes its vision, mission, foundational principles, and overarching goals; core objectives with targets; and research and developmental objectives. HP2030 was developed through a multiyear process with input from members of the public; public and private organizations; the Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2030, an independent federal advisory committee with subject matter experts; a diverse group of federal and nonfederal subject matter experts; and federal agencies.

In January 2020 AFDO held the Foodborne Illness Reduction through Healthy People 2030 Summit. At this meeting a group of 130+ Food Safety Leaders came together to discuss changes needed to reduce foodborne illness. Targeted action plans were developed in the HP2030 categories: Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC), *Listeria*, *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, Norovirus and various commodities. Following this meeting AFDO led the establishment of an AFDO HP2030 Steering Committee comprised of food safety leaders in government, associations and consumer groups to help guide the next steps. The Steering Committee decided to focus on 3 areas:

- Salmonellosis Reduction (especially from poultry)
- **Norovirus Reduction through Retail Activities**
- Produce and *E. coli* O157:H7

Each of the 3 areas are workgroups that report their activities to the AFDO HP2030 steering committee.

### Description of Norovirus Workgroup

This working group is focused on [HP2030 Developmental Objective: FS-D06](#): Reduce the number of norovirus outbreaks. Developmental objectives offer an opportunity to explore high priority areas without reliable baseline data, but with established evidence-based interventions. This workgroup will use this developmental objective as a framework to control and prevent norovirus outbreaks in retail food environments. Our efforts are focused on the following 3 goals:

- **GOAL 1:** Increase compliance with behaviors and practices related to proper handwashing, employee health, and no bare hand contact with RTE food.
- **GOAL 2:** Identify and apply evidence-based strategies to implement Food Safety Culture (emphasizing Employee Health)
- **Goal 3:** Identify and apply achievable, effective Tools to Aid in the Fight Against Norovirus Spread

### Activities/Tasks & Areas of Responsibilities

The Norovirus work group is looking for motivated and energetic team players to volunteer 5-10 hours a week and help move our goals forward. If you are passionate about public health and believe you can make a difference with our goals and activities, please submit a statement of interest (1-page maximum) with your resume/curriculum vita to Christi Woodruff, [Christi.Woodruff@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Christi.Woodruff@fda.hhs.gov), by 1/17/2023.

## **Goal 1 Activities**

- Use educational tools/methods currently available to aid in the fight against norovirus spread
  - Share cleaning and disinfection research with relevant industry groups on effectiveness of current industry disinfectants for norovirus
  - Further assess and encourage food code adoption by states through food safety regulations for norovirus prevention
  - Educate food workers and public on preventing transmission of norovirus
  - Provide up-to-date best practices on prevention and control of norovirus to regulators and industry driven by science-based research
- Increase funding to improve the impact of education; sustained funding would be ideal
- Pair science, regulatory with industry success to tell the whole story

## **Goal 1 Volunteer Opportunities**

**Goal 1 Co-Lead (2):** Oversees volunteers and directs activities.

**Administrative Support (2):** Maintains meeting minutes, AFDO SharePoint/website, membership list and contact information. Sets up meetings.

**Education Resources Lead (1):** Oversees volunteers and leads

**Education Resources Volunteers (3):** Supports resource development, promotion, and dissemination activities.

**Communication Specialists (2):** Supports educational campaign and provides oversight of communication products.

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## **Goal 2 Activities**

- Assess the impact of occurrence of risk factors
  - Compile information: Inspection reports, FDA Risk Factor study, CDC outbreak data (NORS & NEARS), and publications
  - Implement strategies aimed at food safety culture
- Build and support the public health culture of the regulatory program
  - Survey health departments to establish baseline then re-survey.
- Strengthen the public health culture of the industry program
  - Survey retail businesses and employees (managers/FWs) to establish baseline then re-survey.

## **Goal 2 Volunteer Opportunities**

**Administrative Support (2):** Maintains meeting minutes, AFDO SharePoint/website, membership list and contact information. Sets up meetings

**Survey Co-Leads (2):** Oversees survey development and volunteers to assess needs and identify gaps.

**Survey Volunteers (3):** Develops and maintains survey. Analyzes surveys.

**Food Safety Culture Volunteers (4):** Supports workgroup activities.

**Health Promotion/Behavioral Science Volunteers (2):** Supports the development of surveys and dissemination of findings.

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