

Rapid Response Teams



2026 Rapid Response Team Meeting Agenda

August 19-21, 2026

Location: Baltimore, MD

| Wednesday, August 19, 2026 MFRPA & RRT Joint Session Location: | |
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| 8:00 am – 10:00 am | RRT Traceability Rule Workshop Join traceability experts from GS1 US as they guide you through a hands-on workshop that provides the base knowledge needed for key FSMA Rule 204 requirements. The workshop includes a hands-on exercise focused on tracing tomatoes from farm to fork. Explore challenges and solutions in sharing traceability information with trading partners. |
| 10:00 am – 10:20 am | Networking Break |
| | Moderator: TBD |
| 10:20 am – 10:50 am | FDA Contracts and Grants Update Nicola Areshenko, Project Manager, Division of Partnership Investments and Agreements, Office of Integrated Food Safety System Partnerships, Office of Domestic Partnerships, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Joy Ramsey, Consumer Safety Officer, Division of Partnership Investments and Agreements, Office of Integrated Food Safety System Partnerships, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Jenice Butler, Public Health Advisor, Division of Partnership Investments and Agreements, Office of Integrated Food Safety System Partnerships, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Travis Goodman, Acting Branch Chief, Produce Branch, Office of Integrated Food Safety System Partnerships, U.S. Food and Drug Administration |
| 10:50 am – 11:30 am | FDA BRIDGE Update Erik Mettler, M.P.A, M.P.H, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Integrated Food Safety System Partnerships, Human Foods Program, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Tim Mueller, JD, Director, Office of Domestic Partnerships, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Daniel Gaines, Food Program Administrator, Food and Drug Protection Division, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Bobbie McDonald, Program Coordinator II, Food Safety and Sanitation Program, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation |
| 11:30 am – 12:00 pm | Office of Training, Education and Development / Regulatory and Laboratory Training System Updates Brooke Mullican, Director, Office of Training Education and Development, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Birk Stathers, Division of Programmatic Training, Office of Training Education and Development, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Adam Betman, Program Analyst, Program Services Staff, Office of Integrated Food Safety System Partnerships, U.S. Food and Drug Administration |

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| 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm | State Programs Implementing Multiple Standards Matthew Fout, Produce Safety Manager, Division of Food Safety, Ohio Department of Agriculture Stefanie Smith, Chief, Food Safety Policy and Programs, Bureau of Food Safety and Laboratory Services, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Cassie Mueller, MFRPS Coordinator, Food and Feed Safety Division, Minnesota Department of Agriculture |
| 12:30 pm | MFRPA Adjourn, RRT Break for Lunch |
| 12:30 pm – 1:30pm | RRT Lunch Break |

| Wednesday, August 19, 2026 RRT General Session Location: | |
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| Eastern Time | Moderator: TBD |
| 1:30 pm – 1:45 pm | Meeting Kick-off and Logistics Patrick Kennelly, Program Director, Association of Food and Drug Officials |
| 1:45 pm – 1:55 pm | Welcome to RRT 2026 Tim Mueller, JD, Director, Office of Domestic Partnerships, U.S. Food and Drug Administration |
| 1:55 pm – 2:25 pm | RRT Team Introductions RRT Team Speed Introductions |
| 2:25 pm – 2:55 pm | FDA RRT Program Updates Thanh Andrews, Consumer Safety Officer, Office of Integrated Food Safety System Partnerships, U.S. Food and Drug Administration LCDR Garrett Steiner, MPH, REHS/RS, Consumer Safety Officer, Office of Integrated Food Safety System Partnerships, U.S. Food and Drug Administration |
| 2:55 pm – 3:15 pm | Networking Break |
| | Moderator: TBD |
| 3:15 pm – 3:30 pm | Welcome Back, Mid-Day Challenge Patrick Kennelly, Program Director, Association of Food and Drug Officials |
| 3:30 pm – 4:15 pm | Listeria Monocytogenes in Supplement Shakes CAPT Matthew Wise, PhD, MPH, Outbreak Response and Prevention Branch Chief, Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Lauren Edwards, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Alvin Crosby, Response Team 1 Team Lead, Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation (CORE) Network, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Claire Umstead, Rapid Response Team Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Health |
| 4:15 pm – 5:00 pm | Standard 5 Overlap with RRT Benjamin Hopkins, Grant Coordinator, Kansas Department of Agriculture Kelly Kline, MPH, RRT, Food Safety Program Specialist, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Scott Watson, Partnership Coordination and Integration Specialist, U.S. Food and Drug Administration |
| 5:00 pm | Adjourn |

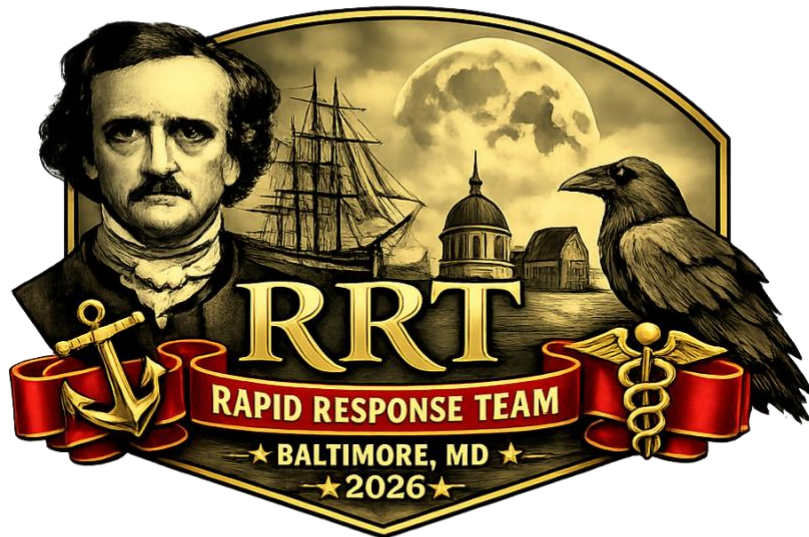
| Thursday, August 20, 2026 RRT General Session Location: | |
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| Eastern Time | Moderator: TBD |
| 8:00 am – 8:10 am | Welcome, Morning Challenge Patrick Kennelly, Program Director, Association of Food and Drug Officials |

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| 8:10 am – 8:55 am | <p>ByHeart Infant Formula Outbreak CAPT Ethel Taylor, DVM, MPH, National Surveillance Team Lead, Enteric Diseases Epidemiology Branch, Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Sin Urban, Ph.D. Division Chief, Laboratories Administration, Maryland Department of Health Christian Bond, Chief, Emergency Response Unit, California Department of Public Health Adiam Tesfai, Food Technologist, Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation (CORE) Network, U.S. Food and Drug Administration</p> |
| 8:55 am – 9:25 am | <p>Salmonella in Eggs on Amish Farms Sana Elassar, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Shaun Olson, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Brian Jorata, Internal Operations Manager, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection</p> |
| 9:25 am – 9:45 am | Networking Break |
| | Moderator: TBD |
| 9:45 am – 9:55 am | <p>Mid-Morning Challenge Patrick Kennelly, Program Director, Association of Food and Drug Officials</p> |
| 9:55 am – 10:40 am | <p>Creative Ways States are Working During Recalls Alida Sorenson, Supervisor, Response and Outreach, Minnesota Department of Agriculture David Minor, Rapid Response Team Coordinator, Washington State Department of Agriculture Chuck Dumas, Rapid Response Team Coordinator, Arkansas Department of Health</p> |
| 10:40 am – 11:10 am | <p>RRT's and Tribes CAPT Timothy (Matt) Albright, Deputy Director, Indian Health Service</p> |
| 11:10 am – 11:40 am | <p>Salmonella in Whole Cucumbers Kelly Kline, MPH, RRT Food Safety Program Specialist, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Sharon Seelman, Biologist, Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation (CORE) Network, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Claire Umstead, Rapid Response Team Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Health</p> |
| 11:40 am – 1:10 pm | Lunch (On Your Own) |
| | Moderator: TBD |
| 1:10 pm – 1:20 pm | <p>Welcome Back, Afternoon Challenge Patrick Kennelly, Program Director, Association of Food and Drug Officials</p> |
| 1:20 pm – 2:20 pm | <p>RRT's Role During the World Cup Summer Williams, Food Safety Division Deputy Director, Georgia Department of Agriculture Tishara Coleman, Rapid Response Team Coordinator, Texas Department of State Health Services Mark Buxton, Rapid Response Team Coordinator, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services David Minor, Rapid Response Team Coordinator, Washington State Department of Agriculture Michael Moore, Director, Division of Food Protection, Massachusetts Department of Public Health Kenya Moon, Retail Food Specialist, U.S. Food and Drug Administration</p> |
| 2:20 pm – 2:50 pm | <p>Reduced Funding Impacts on States Phillip Fruechting, Environmental Health Inspector Supervisor, Arkansas Department of Health Brad Deacon, Director, Office of Legal Affairs and Emergency Management, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Frank Greene, Division Director, Food and Standards Division, Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection</p> |
| 2:50 pm – 3:10 pm | Networking Break |
| | Moderator: TBD |

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| 3:10 pm – 3:20 pm | Mid-Afternoon Challenge Patrick Kennelly, Program Director, Association of Food and Drug Officials |
| 3:20 pm – 4:00 pm | Outbreak in Natural and Raw Pet Foods Lauren Carey, U.S. Food and Drug Administration TBD |
| 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm | Use of AI Tools Involved in RRT Ryan Blaustein, Assistant Professor, University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources |
| 4:30 pm – 5:00 pm | Listeria Outbreak Linked to Prepared Pasta Meals Davonna Koebrick, Food Safety Officer/Program Manager, Texas Department of State Health Services Doug Noveroske, Food Safety Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture CAPT Matthew Wise, PhD, MPH, Outbreak Response and Prevention Branch Chief, Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Brooke Whitney, Interdisciplinary Scientist, Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation (CORE) Network, U.S. Food and Drug Administration |
| 5:00 pm | Adjourn |

| Friday, August 21, 2026 RRT General Session Location: | |
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| Eastern Time | Moderator: |
| 8:00 am – 8:10 am | Welcome, Morning Challenge Patrick Kennelly, Program Director, Association of Food and Drug Officials |
| 8:10 am – 8:55 am | Salmonella in Moringa Leaf Powder Outbreak CAPT Matthew Wise, PhD, MPH, Outbreak Response and Prevention Branch Chief, Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Erin Smilanich, Rapid Response Team Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Agriculture Margaret Kirchner, Biologist, Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation (CORE) Network, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Kailey Lewis, Epidemiologist, Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation (CORE) Network, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Michelle Kusnier, Rapid Response Team Food Safety Specialist, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| 8:55 am – 9:25 am | Feed/Food Outbreak with Powdered Eggs Ashley Phillips, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Dylan Grippi, Compliance Officer, Office of Surveillance and Compliance Center for Veterinary Medicine, U.S. Food and Drug Administration |
| 9:25 am – 9:45 am | Networking Break |
| | Moderator: TBD |
| 9:45 am – 10:30 am | Outbreaks and Overviews of Home Delivery Meals Doug Noveroske, Food Safety Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture Ainsley Lackey, Manufactured Food Program Manager, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services CAPT Matthew Wise, PhD, MPH, Outbreak Response and Prevention Branch Chief, Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention |

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| 10:30 am – 11:00 am | Interesting RRT Exercises Michelle Boyd, Assistant Bureau Chief, Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing Alida Sorenson, Supervisor, Response and Outreach, Minnesota Department of Agriculture Mark Buxton, Rapid Response Team Coordinator, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Lauren Edwards, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Benjamin Hopkins, Grant Coordinator, Kansas Department of Agriculture |
| 11:00 am – 11:30 am | Going from Development to Maintenance Jill Miller, Rapid Response Team Coordinator, Arizona Department of Agriculture Jessica Kimbrough, Partnership Coordination and Integration Specialist, Division of Partnership Coordination and Integration, U.S. Food and Drug Administration |
| 11:30 am – 12:00 pm | Closing and Wrap Up Lisa Joseph, Acting Branch Chief II, Division of Domestic Partnerships, Coordination and Integration, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Patrick Kennelly, Program Director, Association of Food and Drug Officials |
| 12:00 pm | Adjourn |



Nevermore Shall Outbreaks Go Unanswered