

To: Heads of Food Service.
Lead Food Officers
REHIS
SFELC

27 February 2024

FSS/ENF/24/002

Dear Colleague

Guidance on the management of outbreaks of foodborne illness in Scotland

As part of the Scottish Health Protection Network, Food Standards Scotland and Public Health Scotland worked with a multidisciplinary group including experts from Local Authorities, Health Boards, Clinical Reference Laboratories and Public Analyst Scientific Services to develop detailed guidance on the specific multi-agency arrangements and actions relating to the management of outbreaks of foodborne illness in Scotland. This guidance can be accessed [here](#).

The document should be read in conjunction with over-arching guidance published by Public Health Scotland and the Scottish Health Protection Network on behalf of Scottish Government:

[Management of Public Health Incidents: Guidance on the Roles and Responsibilities of NHS led Incident Management Teams. Scottish Guidance No 12.1 \(2020 edition\).](#)

Further information on Food Standards Scotland's processes and structures when fulfilling our responsibilities in response to non-routine food or feed-related incidents in Scotland can be found in our [Incident Management Framework](#).

These guidance documents are intended for all those involved in the investigation and control of foodborne outbreaks in Scotland to use as a guide when developing their own plans for managing such incidents.

FSS wish to express their appreciation to the SHPN Guidance Development Group, as well as the stakeholders and external reviewers who provided valuable feedback throughout our consultation process.

Yours sincerely

Grainne Gilson Smith
Principal Project Lead (SAFER) Regulatory Change & Frameworks
Local Authority Delivery
Food Standards Scotland
enforcement@fss.scot