

CDC estimates that each year roughly 1 in 6 Americans (48 million people) get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die of foodborne diseases. As we approach this year’s holiday season we wanted to review foodborne case investigations to highlight some points to keep in mind when completing foodborne disease case investigations.

**Always determine the person’s occupation.** It is not sufficient to ask *only* if someone is a food handler. Someone may have an occupation they may not consider to be food handling, such as a pharmacist, but that would require additional public health follow-up.

A food handler is defined in 105 CMR 300.020 as:

- Any person directly preparing or handling food. This could include the food establishment owner, individual having supervisory or management duties, person on the payroll, family member, volunteer, person performing work under contractual agreement, or any other person working in a food handling facility.
- Any person who dispenses medications by hand, assists in feeding, or provides mouth care. In health care facilities, this includes those who set up trays for patients to eat, feed or assist patients in eating, give oral medications or give mouth/denture care. In day care facilities, schools and community residential programs, this includes those who prepare food for clients to eat, feed or assist clients in eating, or give oral medications.

Occupation should be noted in MAVEN in the Demographic question package in the Employment Information section.

2. Demographic Package, <a href="#">Test Test</a> Salmonellosis		
Event ID: 101383166		
Address Information (Address information below conforms to address when first reported)		
Street address:	123 Main Street	Official City:
City:	Anywhere	County:
State:	MA	Country:
Zip code:		
<a href="#">Select Official Address</a>		Unique address:
Employment Information		
Employer name:	Test Employer	Employer telephone:
Employer address:	456 Main Street	Employer city:
Employer state:	MA	Employer zip code:
Occupation:	Pharmacist	<a href="#">Add New</a>

There is an option for currently unemployed. If your case has an occupation not listed in the drop down, select other and you will be able to enter it. You can also enter more than one occupation by selecting the “Add New” hyperlink.

Once occupation has been determined, you must also answer the question “Is case a foodhandler?” found in the Risk/Exposure/Control & Prevention question package. This is important not only for the case, but also for any household or close contacts of the case.

5. Risk/Exposure/Control & Prevention Package, <a href="#">Test Test</a> Salmonellosis	
Event ID: 101383166	
Risk/Exposure/Control & Prevention	
Suspect food or drink:	
Did case travel out-of-state or out-of-country during incubation period?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any outdoor activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any animal contact?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the case consume any high-risk animal products during incubation period?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did any others share above exposure(s)?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employed or attend a supervised care setting?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<small>Foodhandler: a person directly preparing or handling food, including preparing trays of food, feeding other persons, administering oral medications, or giving mouth/denture</small>	
Is case a foodhandler?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any household or other close contacts ill?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is contact of case employed or attending a supervised care setting?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is household or close contact of the case a foodhandler?	<input type="checkbox"/>

If, during the course of your investigation, you suspect someone became infected through food, remember to fill out a Foodborne Illness Complaint Worksheet. Completed worksheets can be faxed to the MDPH Food Protection Program at 617-983-6770. As shown below, when you enter a suspect food or drink in the Risk/Exposure/Control & Prevention question package, a reminder will pop up with a hyperlink you can click on to access the worksheet.

5. Risk/Exposure/Control & Prevention Package, <a href="#">Test Test</a> Salmonellosis	
Event ID: 101383166	
Risk/Exposure/Control & Prevention	
Suspect food or drink: <input type="text"/>	Garden Salad <a href="#">Add New</a>
<small>If a specific facility is named, please remember to fill out a <a href="#">Foodborne Illness Complaint Worksheet</a> and send a copy to the Food Protection Program.</small>	
Suspect store/restaurant name:	Test Store
Place (store/restaurant) location:	

If you have questions about MAVEN, please email [isishelp@state.ma.us](mailto:isishelp@state.ma.us) or contact the MAVEN help desk at 617-983-6801. If you have questions about foodborne disease investigation, please contact the Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800.