



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DR. TIM BORING
DIRECTOR

TO: All Local Health Departments (LHDs)
Attn: Medical Director / Health Officer / Director of Environmental Health

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)
Attn: Human Food Division Managers

FROM: Jennifer Bonsky, Human Food Division Director, MDARD 

Justin Henderson, Enteric Illness Epidemiology Section Manager, Bureau of Infectious
Disease Prevention, MDHHS 

DATE: July 16th, 2025

SUBJECT: ***MDARD / MDHHS Epi-Ready Foodborne Disease Outbreak Team Training***

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), Human Food Division, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Communicable Diseases, have scheduled an Epi-Ready Foodborne Disease Outbreak Team Training to take place on **September 23 and 24, 2025**, at the **AgroLiquid Conference Center (3055 W M 21, Saint Johns, MI 48879)**.

Course Description

The intention of this two-day workshop is to train public health professionals and other involved personnel to rapidly identify and investigate a foodborne disease outbreak to allow for (1) swift implementation of control measures to stop the outbreak, and (2) prevent future similar outbreaks. This course promotes highly trained epidemiology, laboratory, and environmental health workforces skilled in properly conducting foodborne illness investigations. Topics are covered through a combination of lecture, question and answer sessions, interactive group exercises, and final case study.

Participant Guidelines

This training is focused for public health professionals with one to four (1-4) years of on-the-job experience involved in outbreak investigations including: environmental health specialists/sanitarians, epidemiologists, infectious disease control staff, public health nurses, laboratorians, emergency preparedness coordinators, and others. *The maximum number of participants is 35 per session.*

Cost

There is no charge for this course. Continuing education credits for Nursing (14.00) will be available. Additionally, you may apply for contact hours through NEHA upon completion of this course.

Registration

Please fill out the Epi-Ready Interest Form at: <https://forms.office.com/g/qeKcVqMNpJ> to register for the course or place yourself on the wait list for future courses. At this time, we request that participants who have recently taken Epi-Ready or Outbreak-Ready do not register for the course again. Once this course is filled, you will receive a confirmation email. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Lauren Edwards at EdwardsL8@michigan.gov or Cole Burkholder at BurkholderC1@michigan.gov.