

Pathogen Tracker Game



Food For Thought

When you play the Pathogen Tracker Game you assume the role of a Foodborne Illness Investigator, an FBII detective answering to the Chief. The Chief says you work for “a government agency dedicated to investigating dangerous outbreaks of foodborne illness. Using a combination of sophisticated technology and solid detective work, we trace these outbreaks to their source and prevent further contamination of the food supply.”

The FBII does not exist, of course, but many other government and industry organizations work to control the spread of foodborne disease. It takes a great deal of effort from talented people to keep us healthy! Public health officials and investigators work with research scientists to identify, track, and deal with this problem. Disease prevention is also the responsibility of food processors and vendors, who must practice careful hygiene at all times. Consumers also play a significant role in preventing foodborne illness.

The Game introduces many of the people responsible for food safety. Need help getting started? The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Occupational Outlook Handbook <http://www.bls.gov/oco/> is a great place to start the career exploration. Public Health Investigator does NOT show up in this database. The JuJu job search engine (<http://www.job-search-engine.com/>) is another good source with many examples for this career. And the National Health Service Corps (<http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/>) will introduce you to opportunities to get help with financing your education.

Here are a few of the specific jobs in the order in which they appear in the Game.

- Public Health Investigators
- Food Science Technicians
- Food Scientists
- Food Services (Vendors)
- Food Processors
- Food Plant Inspectors

Where would you work if you had one of these jobs?

What level of education is required for these careers?

Which ones interest you?