

Pathogen Tracker Game



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Stage Three: Find the Source of the Contaminated Food

Level I Student Worksheet

Interviews with patients: List each of the patients and the places where each has eaten hotdogs.

BEFORE YOU CONTINUE THE GAME, explain whether or not you think you have enough information to determine the source of the outbreak.

CONTINUE THE GAME

List each of the vendors and tell from which meat company each buys its hotdogs.

Based on the results of your interviews with the patients and vendors, which meat company do you think is the most likely source of the contaminated hotdogs? Explain your reasons for choosing this meat company.

Investigating the Meat Companies – Remember: Testing is very expensive! Now that you have decided which company's hotdogs to test, which months' hotdogs do you want to test? Give your reasons for choosing the month(s).

Which month's hotdogs were contaminated with *L. monocytogenes*?

BEFORE YOU CONTINUE THE GAME, after reading the encyclopedia entry about the process used to manufacture hotdogs, where in the manufacturing process could contamination have taken place?

CONTINUE THE GAME

Describe in detail the steps used in the plant to test for possible areas of contamination.

Make a table to show which areas of the plant were tested and which of those areas tested positive for *L. monocytogenes*.

As a result of using the Pathogen Tracker database, where in the plant was the strain of *L. monocytogenes* DUP 1042B found?

What are the USDA Guidelines that must be followed when contamination is found in a plant that manufactures food?

Four different action plans have been proposed. Which one of these plans will you choose and which will you reject? Please give your reasons for the plan you choose and those plans you reject.

In the previous Stages, you listed the steps you think scientists follow in solving a case of foodborne illness outbreak and made revisions to those steps. Now that you have completed Stage Three, what additional revisions, if any, will you make to the steps and why will you make those revisions?