

Pathogen Tracker Game



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Stage Three: Find the Source of the Contaminated Food

Level II Student Worksheet

Remember, as you play this stage of the game, to add to the “Actual Steps” and “Stages” in your table on page 2 of your worksheet for Stage One.

Interviews with Patients – list what kind of hotdogs each of the following patients ate:

- Amodini Khan
- Matt Rufello
- Roger Martin
- Franklin Spoon
- Aimee Ferguson

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

Interviews with vendors – tell from which manufacturer each of the restaurants bought its hotdogs.

- Aunt Miriam’s
- Dog Days
- Rusty’s Red Hots

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.

How many choices did you make before you chose the correct meat company?

Investigating the Meat Companies – Remember: Testing is very expensive! What rationale are you using to choose month(s) to test? Was your first choice the correct choice?

In the Data Table below, record the results of your choices for the meat companies and months to be tested.

Data Table: Meat Companies Investigated				
Company	Month Tested			
	June	July	August	September
Over the Moon Meats				
Home Run Hots				
Frank N. Furter, Inc.				

BEFORE YOU CONTINUE THE GAME, after reading the encyclopedia entry about the process used to manufacture hotdogs, list the steps in that process and explain where you think contamination could take place.

CONTINUE THE GAME

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

In the Data Table below, record the results from the Frank N. Furter, Inc. testing.

Test Results from the Plant		
Area of the Plant	Tested	Bacteria Found
Floors		
Mixer		
Stuffer Linker		
Smoke House		
Peeler		
Packaging		

Based on the results from Pathogen Tracker, which area(s) of the plant could be the source of the contamination from the strain DUP1042B?

What are the USDA Guidelines to be followed when a source of contamination has been found?

Action Plan - 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.

Plan 1

Plan 2

Plan 3

Plan 4

Return to the table on page 2 of your worksheet for Stage One. Again, describe how well you did in predicting the steps the scientists would follow in finding the cause of the foodborne illness outbreak.