International Health Regulations, WHO

http://www.who.int/ihr/revised\_annex2\_guidance.pdf

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Case one: E. coli 0157:H7 in Spinach (This case study occurred in 2006 and is summarized in an INFOSAN Note19).

In September 2006, the United States of America experienced an E. coli O157:H7 outbreak involving fresh, bagged spinach with reported 205 cases of illness including 104 hospitalizations, 31 cases of kidney failure and 3 deaths. Under the IHR(2005) Decision Instrument (see appendix one), the presence of at least two of the four criteria means that the event needs to be to notified: 1. Is the public health impact of the event serious?

• Yes. The event is caused by a pathogen which causes serious disease and death. 2. Is the event unusual or unexpected?

• No. Event is caused by a known agent from a likely common source outbreak.

• Evolution of cases is not more serious than expected.

• Presence of Enterohaemorrhagic E. coli in produce is a known problem. 3. Is there a significant risk of international spread?

• Yes. The national authority responsible for food safety confirmed that export of the affected product occurred.

• National authority responsible for food safety confirmed that many people cross the border daily from two neighbouring countries and may have been exposed to the contaminated food. 4. Is there significant risk of international travel or trade restrictions?

• Yes. Similar events have resulted in National Authorities in importing countries putting in place international trade restrictions.

Three of the four criteria have been meet. Therefore based on the above information, this event would have required notification under the IHR(2005).

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