

## GOARN Request for Assistance: Listeria, South Africa Terms of References



**Date:** 13 March 2018  
**Country:** South Africa  
**WHO Region:** Africa (AFR)  
**Classification:** Restricted

### **Epidemiologist**

1. Assess what has been done as part of the investigation into the food source of this outbreak, including the continued strengthening of the collection of patient food history information.
2. Support the ongoing planning and implementation of an effective surveillance system for listeriosis to properly monitor the expected decrease in outbreak associated cases.
3. Support current efforts and advise on the need for further epidemiological studies and data analyses in particular with regards to possible additional smaller outbreaks involving other strains.
4. Support the implementation of any traceback and traceforward activities and support information sharing between South Africa and countries where implicated product has been exported.
5. Support continued efforts to retrospectively sequence available human isolates that have not been sequenced yet to better characterize the magnitude of the current outbreak.
6. Ensure risk communications activities are informed by the latest epidemiological information to ensure identified risks are communicated and vulnerable populations targeted.
7. Perform any other related incident-specific duties, as required by the functional supervisor.

### **Food safety expert**

1. Advise on the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of food safety and listeriosis activities, in compliance with national guidelines and regulations.
2. Support the provision of targeted technical information to food manufacturers on their obligations to produce safe food. Topics to be covered include: good hygienic practice, good manufacturing practice, product testing, environmental monitoring, Listeria control, and food recalls.
3. Facilitate the continued development and implementation of regulatory and non-regulatory measures to address listeriosis, the cause of the outbreak and risk factors among affected and at risk population.

4. Provide technical assistance to the development of a national food recall protocol. A food recall protocol will provide guidance for food businesses on how to develop a written food recall plan, covering action taken to remove from distribution, sale and consumption, any food which is unsafe. It assists food businesses plan for and respond to a need to recall potentially unsafe food by setting out the roles and responsibilities of food businesses and government during a food recall and the key steps in the food recall process.
5. Support the implementation of enhanced training and the provision of information for environmental health practitioners on food inspection practices, including the provision of sampling and swabbing equipment to environmental health practitioners in all provinces. Support capacity building to strengthen the food safety system through the food chain, including the capacity of food safety authorities relating to listeriosis.
6. Provide technical guidance to monitor the implementation of specific activities related to food safety in order to improve the data collection and reporting at all levels.
7. Support the continued strengthening of listeriosis surveillance, identify the constraints and gaps and provide technical solutions to improve the system.
8. Perform any other related incident-specific duties, as required by the functional supervisor.

### **Risk communications expert**

1. Provide ongoing support for the identification of communication channels, media and tools used to deliver listeria prevention and control messages to the public and to the listeria high-risk groups in this outbreak.
2. Support ongoing assessment of the effectiveness of listeria messages in reaching their target audiences.
3. Compile and evaluate content of listeria messages being developed and delivered.
4. Make recommendations on what additional expertise may be needed to support the current response to limit exposure to implicated food vehicle(s).
5. Promote effective risk communication strategies and to implement risk communication activities.
6. Support the orientation of risk communication activities, in line with the changing epidemiological situation and new epidemiological information.
7. Perform any other related incident-specific duties, as required by the functional supervisor.