Temple University
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Center for
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Research

Research Protocol for State Foodborne Illness Reporting Laws

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State Foodborne Illness Reporting Laws

I. **Scope:** To compile state laws pertaining to foodborne illness reporting requirements (Healthcare Providers and Laboratories).

a. Preliminary Code Check and Quality Control

i. Coders #1 and #2 (current law and MPH students) are each assigned a different test state (Maryland and Minnesota). Coder #1 is also assigned a second state (New York).

ii. Coders follow the search protocol outlined in Steps B(2) (a)-(f), below, to identify laws pertaining to foodborne illness reporting for their assigned state.

iii. Using the search terms and methods described in B(2) (a)-(f), below, the Researcher will identify all relevant laws for the three test states that will be coded (Maryland, Minnesota, and New York). The Researcher will download these laws into separate folders organized by state. These folders will be shared with the entire research team, and relevant laws will also be copied into the database by the Coders.

iv. Each Coder will compare laws they identified individually with the laws Researcher identified. The Researcher and Coders will discuss and resolve any discrepancies.

v. Each Coder will follow the coding protocol outlined in Step C, below, to answer the coding questions for the test state to which they are assigned using the laws identified in A(2)-(4).

vi. Coders will note the following as they code: any difficulties in answering particular questions; any issues which are not addressed by the coding questions and should be added; any other problems encountered in using the database or answering coding questions. The Researcher and Coders will meet and discuss these issues, and revise the search process and/or coding questions as necessary.

b. Primary Data Collection

i. Coders #1 and #2 are each assigned half the states. Coding assignments and date of completion are recorded in an excel file stored on a shared drive.

ii. Each Coder or Researcher compiles laws pertaining to foodborne illness reporting for healthcare providers and laboratories using the following search method:

1. Using LexisNexis Academic Universe, each coder and researcher identifies laws using the following search terms and syntax:
   a. "notifiable disease"
   b. "notifiable condition"
   c. "notifiable illness"
   d. Notifiable
   e. "communicable disease"
   f. "communicable illness"
   g. communicable
   h. "reportable disease"

i. "reportable condition"
j. "reportable illness"
k. report! (Note: the ! will bring up reporting, reporter, report, and reports)
l. outbreak
m. "foodborne illness"
n. "foodborne disease"
o. "foodborne outbreak"
p. Foodborne
q. "infectious disease"
r. "infectious illness"
s. infect! (Note: the ! will bring up infect, infectious, and infection)
t. physician and report
u. laboratory and report
v. healthcare provider and report

2. If the Coder/Researcher is unable to find a particular collection of laws for a state (i.e., statutes and/or regulations) in LexisNexis, the Coder/Researcher will search for the relevant laws on publically available state legislative databases (websites) using any available search function and the search terms provided in Step B(2)(a).
3. The Coder/Researcher then scans the results for laws related to foodborne illness reporting.
4. Once the Coder has identified a relevant law, the Coder will trace the law back to the state statutory or regulatory code's table of contents and scan the titles of other laws within the same or nearby sections of the statutory or regulatory code to identify other relevant laws (for example, once the Coder has identified the state's reportable conditions law within a statute or regulation, the coder may find that most or all other sections within the same title or chapter are relevant).
5. Coders/Researchers will keep track of what key terms pulled up successful results in each state.
6. Applicable laws identified through the search are downloaded into folders organized by state and subfolders organized by statutes and regulations. The Coder/Researcher then identifies and dates when a state is completed in the excel file task manager.
7. Coder/Researchers will search each state's Department of Health (or similar) website to identify the most up-to-date reportable disease information, including reporting posters and reporting instructions for healthcare providers and laboratories.

c. Coding

i. The research team creates an Access database that includes all coding questions developed by Researchers, organized by topic area, foodborne disease, and state.

ii. Coders #1 and #2 code the laws for each of their assigned states by answering the coding questions in the database.

iii. If while coding a Coder believes that a law may be missing from those collected through the search process in Step B, coder will use LexisNexis Academic Universe (or a state legislative database, if necessary) to search for pertinent laws using terms included within or relevant to the coding question at issue. Coder will keep track of these additional search terms to share with the project team, and these search terms will be added to the list in Step B(2)(a).

iv. Coder #3, who has not yet participated in any of the research, will independently code a random selection of questions across 10 states to check for coding accuracy.

v. The full team (Researchers and Coders) meet and resolve divergences at regular team meetings.

d. Quality Control

i. Once Coders have completed coding all questions, Researcher will review all laws and coding answers to verify coding accuracy and simultaneously transfer data from Access database to Law Atlas. Researcher will compare state reportable disease lists available from state websites with coded answers based on state laws to note any discrepancies and check for accuracy.