



# MAFP NEWSLETTER

The Metropolitan Association for Food Protection

Volume 9, Issue 2

September 2007



## Announcing Our

# Fall 2007 Seminar

**Tuesday, October 23, 2007**

8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

**Cook College Campus Center, Rutgers,  
New Brunswick, NJ**

< See Details Starting on Page 2 <

### Sponsor this Newsletter

MAFP is looking for corporate sponsors to help defray the cost of this newsletter. If you are interested, please see a MAFP Board Member. Sponsorship includes automatic sustaining membership for 1 year plus a half-page ad in the sponsored newsletter. Sponsorships are also available for seminar coffee breaks, lunch, etc.

### MAFP Needs Volunteers

You can help MAFP succeed by volunteering to be on the MAFP Executive Board. We need members to help plan the seminar programs and help with registration, etc. If you are interested contact Carol Schwar. Thanks! (see page 7 for current Board Members)

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Fall 2007

My Summer Vacation

My favorite vacations are the ones you stuff your car and drive to your destination. I like to avoid the airports, the parking, lines and bioterrorism checks. I don't like the stuffy planes with poor air circulation. Of course you will run into a delay on the tarmac and while looking around the cabin everyone starts to look like Andrew Speaker, the TB carrying attorney from Atlanta. Nope, not for me. My favorite destinations include driving to the green mountains of Vermont, or the white sandy beaches of the Outer Banks or perhaps a cozy cabin in the deep woods of Pennsylvania. For the summer of 2007, I planned the road trip of a lifetime. Rent an RV and drive across the US--Colorado, South Dakota, maybe as far as the red woods of Northern California. When I accepted my job (I have since changed jobs again) I specifically negotiated enough vacation time so I could pull off this trip. However issues beyond my control changed my plans. I ended up booked on a cruise to Florida and the Bahamas. Cruise? I swore I would never go on a cruise. All that food crammed in the belly of the ship. All those thousands of people crammed together. People from all over the world. Someone is sure to be carrying a disease. Maybe it is the person behind me in this long food line. Or in the hot tub with me, or next to me in the comedy show. Are the food preparation staff washing their hands? I just hope they are trained and know the importance of good personal hygiene. I hope they know how quickly Norovirus can spread on a ship like this. With all these people so close, if someone gets sick it will spread throughout the passengers before we even get into port. I don't plan on spending my entire vacation in the bathroom so I keep my distance from everyone. I also see they are putting out clams on a half shell. People are lining up at the buffet to get their raw shimmering clams. Are they crazy? That's a case of Hepatitis A just waiting to happen. And I'm sure I noticed that the food handler setting up the clams on ice had jaundice yellow eyes. Now I will have to count the days and just wait for the symptoms to kick in. How can anyone enjoy a cruise for vacation? Next summer I'll rent my own RV and bring plenty of hand soap.

As I write this message the final plans of our fall 2007 seminar on October 23<sup>rd</sup> are coming together. We will have presentations on Norovirus, Hepatitis A and the importance of personal hygiene and hand washing. We will also hear details on the events of the pet food recall and an update on the New Jersey food code, Chapter 24. It should be another interesting program. We are anticipating another strong attendance and look forward to your input and requests for future programs.

Hope you had a great summer. See you at Cook College on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Gary  
President, MAFP

# SEMINAR AGENDA

Tuesday, October 23, 2007  
Cook College Campus Center, Rutgers, New Brunswick, NJ

**Please register by Oct. 16. See page 3.**

- 8:30 – 9:00            **Registration – *Continental breakfast***
- 9:00 – 9:15            **Opening Remarks**
- 9:15 – 10:00          **Hepatitis A Virus**  
Ellen Rudowski, Public Health Nurse, N.J. Dept. of Health & Senior Services, Communicable Disease Services
- 10:00 – 10:45        **Handwashing and Personal Hygiene**  
Michele Samarya-Timm, Health Educator, Somerset County
- 10:45 – 11:00        Break
- 11:00 – 12:00        **Norovirus in New Jersey**  
Michelle Malavet, Foodborne Disease Surveillance Coordinator, N.J. Dept. of Health & Senior Services
- 12:00 – 1:00         **Lunch – *Hot buffet***
- 1 :00 – 1:45          **Pet Food Recalls**  
Raymond Cheung, Consumer Safety Officer, FDA
- 1:45 – 2 :30         **State and Local Health Response to Recent Pet Food Recalls**  
Alan Talarsky, Project Leader/State Recall Coordinator, Dairy, Juice, and Bottled Water Safety Project, N.J. Dept. of Health & Senior Services
- 2:30 – 3 :30         **Chapter 24 Update, FAQs and Preview of Risk Based Inspections**  
Bill Manley, Project Leader, Retail Food Project, N.J. Dept. of Health & Senior Services
- 3:30                    **Evaluations collected**

## Attention

### New Jersey Licensed Health Officers and Registered Environmental Health Specialists

This program has been submitted for approval by the NJ Department of Health & Senior Services for continuing education contact hours toward renewal of a New Jersey Health Officer license and/or Registered Environmental Health Specialist license. Please check our website [www.metrofoodprotection.org](http://www.metrofoodprotection.org) for updated credit information.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SEC'Y/TREAS

You will only be registered by returning the seminar registration form found in this newsletter. This can be done by mail or fax. Please indicate the method of payment (i.e. check, purchase order, etc.) If you are registering without a registration form, please include your name, employer, address, telephone number, and method of payment. **Checks, vouchers and purchase orders must be payable to MAFP.**

If you are not sure of your membership status, just look on your newsletter. The mailing label will indicate an "M" after your name if you are a current member.

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM – 2007 MAFP FALL SEMINAR 10-23-07**  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE 10-16-07  
FORM MUST BE MAILED OR FAXED TO 908-689-3832  
**PLEASE DO NOT REGISTER BY TELEPHONE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (Please use the address at which you wish to receive future mailings)

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ (In case we need to reach you regarding payment, etc.)

**Membership Status / Rate**

(If you received a newsletter with your name followed by an "M", you are a current member.)

Member \$40 (\$50 after 10-16-07)       Non-member \$55 (\$65 after 10-16-07)

Payment method  Check \_\_\_\_\_

Voucher / Purchase Order \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

- Please make checks, vouchers, and purchase orders payable to MAFP and mail to Carol Schwar, c/o Warren County Health Dept., 315 W. Washington Ave., Washington, NJ 07882.
- Directions to the Cook College Campus Center and a parking pass are on page 5.
- Questions? Contact Carol Schwar at [cschwar@co.warren.nj.us](mailto:cschwar@co.warren.nj.us), phone (908) 689-6693, or fax (908) 689-3832.

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**MAFP MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
(to be used in conjunction with seminar registration)

Join now and you may register for the seminar at the member rate. Memberships run from January 1 through December 31. The fee is half price if you join after July 1.

- Please complete name, address, etc. above

Membership fee \$25 (\$12.50 after July 1)

Payment method  Check \_\_\_\_\_

Voucher / Purchase Order \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

- Please make checks payable to MAFP and mail to Carol Schwar, Warren County Health Dept., 315 W. Washington Ave., Washington, NJ 07882.
- You may write one check for membership and seminar registration.

Congratulations to our  
MAFP 2007 Sustaining  
Members

Elmhurst Dairy/Honeywell Farms  
Robert Giurco  
Jamaica, NY

Garden State Laboratories  
Harvey Klein  
Hillside, NJ

Health & Sanitation Systems  
Ted Diskind  
Edison, NJ

RK Environmental Services  
Hank Hirsch  
Cresskill, NJ

UrbanEntomologist.com  
Richard Rodriguez  
Brooklyn, NY

## Consider Becoming A MAFP Sustaining Member!

*This extra level of support is vital  
to the continued success of our  
association*

Sustaining members will be recognized in both our Spring and Fall Seminar programs by being announced in the opening remarks at the seminars. In addition, special notice will be given in our newsletters and on our website.

A sustaining membership includes one paid individual membership. Contact Carol Schwar for more information.

## MAFP EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS 2007

President	Gary Moore	<a href="mailto:gary.moore@runaton.com">gary.moore@runaton.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Alan Talarsky	<a href="mailto:alan.talarsky@doh.state.nj.us">alan.talarsky@doh.state.nj.us</a>
Secretary/Treasurer	Carol Schwar	<a href="mailto:cschwar@co.warren.nj.us">cschwar@co.warren.nj.us</a>
IAFP Affiliate Delegate	Don Schaffner	<a href="mailto:schaffner@aesop.rutgers.edu">schaffner@aesop.rutgers.edu</a>
Past President	Howard Rabinovitch	<a href="mailto:howard.rabinovitch@fda.hhs.gov">howard.rabinovitch@fda.hhs.gov</a>
Member at Large	Emil Nashed	<a href="mailto:enashed@farmlanddairies.com">enashed@farmlanddairies.com</a>
Member at Large	Virginia Preesada	<a href="mailto:vprees@verizon.net">vprees@verizon.net</a>
Member at Large	David Reyda	<a href="mailto:dreyda@darden.com">dreyda@darden.com</a>
Member at Large	Eva Rodriguez	<a href="mailto:eva@ititropicals.com">eva@ititropicals.com</a>

**IMPORTANT – PLEASE BRING THIS PASS WITH YOU**



THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY  
**RUTGERS**

Parking and Transportation Services

26 Mine Street • New Brunswick • NJ 08901 - 1182  
(732) 932 - 7744 • Fax (732) 932 - 1450

**LICENSE PLATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ASSIGNED LOT:** 99C & 99D

**DATE:** 10-23-07 **TIME:** 8am – 4pm

**EVENT:** --Metro Assoc. for Food Protection Meeting--

**PLEASE DISPLAY ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE OF YOUR VEHICLE DASHBOARD. THIS PERMIT ALLOWS PARKING FOR VISITORS IN THE LOTS LISTED ABOVE. IT WILL NOT BE VALID IN ANY OTHER PARKING FACILITY. THIS PERMIT IS NOT VALID FOR RUTGERS FACULTY/STAFF OR STUDENTS. THIS PERMIT DOES NOT PROVIDE FREE METER PARKING. VEHICLE MUST BE PARKED IN A LEGAL STALL. ALL PARKING PROCEDURES MUST BE FOLLOWED.**

**DIRECTIONS To Cook College Campus Center (CCCC)**

**From New Jersey Turnpike (North or South)**

Turn off at Exit 9. After tollbooths bear to the right; follow signs for "Route 18 North - New Brunswick." Proceed along Route 18 North and take the exit marked "Route 1 South - Trenton". Proceed along Route 1 South and take the exit marked "College Farm Road." Proceed along College Farm Road onto the Cook Campus. At stop sign turn right onto Dudley Road. Make first right onto Biel Road. The CCCC is the first building on your left.

**G.S. Parkway Southbound - Coming from northern New Jersey**

Turn off at Exit 129 for the New Jersey Turnpike and head south.

Follow directions to campus from Route 18 North, below.

**G.S. Parkway Northbound - Coming from southern New Jersey**

Turn off at Exit 105 and follow signs for Route 18 North.

After approximately 24 miles you will pass the entrance for the New Jersey Turnpike and continue on Route 18 North.

Proceed along **Route 18 North** and take the exit marked "Route 1 South - Trenton". Proceed along Route 1 South and take the exit marked "College Farm Road." Proceed along College Farm Road onto the Cook Campus. At stop sign turn right onto Dudley Road. Make first right onto Biel Road. The CCCC is the first building on your left.

**From Route 1 (North or South)**

Turn off at exit marked "College Farm Road" and follow onto the Cook Campus. At stop sign turn right onto Dudley Road. Make first right onto Biel Road. The CCCC is the first building on your left.

**From Route 287 (North or South)**

Turn off at Exit 9 (Formerly Exit 5) "River Road, Bound Brook, Highland Park". Proceed east on River Road toward Highland Park until you reach the fifth traffic light (approximately 3.4 miles) at the intersection of River Road, Metlars Lane and Route 18. Turn right onto Route 18 and cross the Raritan River on the John Lynch Memorial Bridge. At the first traffic light make a right onto Commercial Avenue. Proceed to the first traffic light and make a left onto George Street. At the first traffic light make a right onto Nichol Avenue. Make the third left onto Dudley Road. Make the second right onto Biel Road. The CCCC is the first building on your left.

## **New strains may be fueling surge in norovirus outbreaks**

*Reprinted from The University of Minnesota Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy*

Aug 24, 2007 (CIDRAP News) – Norovirus outbreaks in the United States appear to have increased sharply since the beginning of last year, probably fueled by two new strains of the gastrointestinal pathogen, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports.

The increase is especially notable in long-term care facilities (LTCFs), the CDC says in today's issue of *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. One recent outbreak in an LTCF led to the first recorded fatal case of norovirus, in a 90-year-old in North Carolina, the report says.

Noroviruses can spread via food or through contact with contaminated surfaces. There is no national surveillance system for acute gastroenteritis (AGE) outbreaks in which foodborne transmission is not suspected, but several lines of evidence suggest that norovirus outbreaks have been on the rise, the CDC says.

### **Outbreaks triple**

For example, in reviewing evidence from 24 states that reported at least five AGE outbreaks in 2005 and 2006, the CDC found that outbreaks overall more than tripled, from 372 in 2005 to 1,316 in 2006. Fifty-eight percent (762) of the outbreaks were in LTCFs.

Norovirus was confirmed in only 29% (382) of the outbreaks, but testing and reporting vary by state for nonfoodborne AGE outbreaks. Findings in states that routinely

test outbreak specimens indicate that a high proportion of the episodes were caused by norovirus, the report says.

Further, CDC tests of specimens from 126 AGE outbreaks in various settings in 2006 confirmed that 114 (90%) were due to norovirus, the agency says. Investigators found that 87 (76%) of these involved two new GII.4 norovirus variants, called Minerva and Laurens. A new strain has brought an increase in outbreaks at least once before, the report says.

### **Findings in three states**

Health officials in many states began contacting the CDC in late 2006 about apparent increases in norovirus outbreaks, the report says. The agency reviewed data for three of those states—North Carolina, Wisconsin, and New York—and found striking increases.

North Carolina had 17 outbreaks consistent with norovirus infection in LTCFs in 2006, compared with six in 2005 and three in 2004. The outbreaks affected 573 residents and 288 staff members, and 36 patients were hospitalized. One 90-year-old resident died, and the gastrointestinal illness was listed as the primary cause of death.

"Norovirus infection as a confirmed cause of death has not been recorded previously in the United States," the CDC says.

In four of the North Carolina episodes, outbreaks occurred after illness among food handlers, suggesting that foodborne transmission might have been involved.

In Wisconsin, AGE outbreaks reported to the state increased more than fourfold in 2

years, from 23 in 2005 to 106 in 2006, the report states. Eighty-seven (87%) of the 2006 outbreaks were confirmed as norovirus by polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

Of 58 nonfoodborne norovirus outbreaks in Wisconsin in 2006, 45 occurred in LTCFs. These outbreaks included 2,071 cases, with 44 patients hospitalized. Two patients died, but the primary causes of death were not recorded.

New York had 333 AGE outbreaks from October 2006 through January 2007, compared with 76 for the same period in 2005-06, the CDC says. Eighty-two percent (272) of the 2006 outbreaks occurred in LTCFs and 8% (26) in hospitals. For healthcare facilities overall, 7,907 patients and 4,317 staff members became ill; 207 patients and 20 staff members were hospitalized. Sixteen patients died, but the causes of death were not reported.

Boston also saw signs of a recent increase in AGE outbreaks related to norovirus, according to the CDC. Between Dec 1, 2006, and April 1, 2007, the city had 18 outbreaks in colleges, day care centers, and healthcare facilities, compared with two outbreaks in the same period a year earlier. PCR testing confirmed norovirus in eight of the outbreaks.

#### **More surveillance expected**

For the AGE outbreaks in late 2006 and 2007 nationwide, the CDC says, "A high proportion of the specimens tested were positive for norovirus, which suggests that the increase in AGE outbreaks was associated with norovirus infection. The magnitude and consistency of increases in

multiple states suggests an actual increase rather than increased reporting resulting from increased awareness and testing for norovirus."

The agency says it is unclear whether the surge in outbreaks is a result of increased pathogenicity or transmissibility of the two new strains, lower immunity in the population, or other factors.

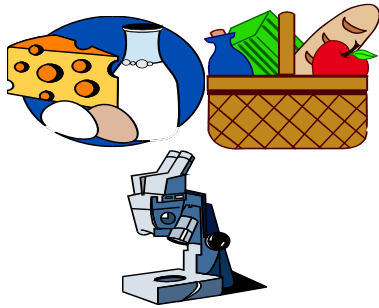
The CDC says its data probably underestimate the number of recent norovirus outbreaks, since reporting methods and thoroughness vary by state.

But better national surveillance for AGE outbreaks is on the way, the agency says. Last year the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists passed a resolution stating that all AGE outbreaks should be reportable nationally, regardless of whether transmission is foodborne or person-to-person. "This will be implemented in 2008 through the National Outbreak Reporting System," the article says.

The CDC also says that CaliciNet, a CDC database used to collect and compare norovirus sequences, will soon be widely accessible to state and local health departments.

Noroviruses (previously known as Norwalk-like viruses) are the most common cause of AGE outbreaks, according to the CDC. Because patients shed the viruses for a long time after recovery and it takes only a few viral particles to cause illness, LTCFs are susceptible to prolonged outbreaks with high attack rates, the agency says.

MAFP  
c/o Carol A. Schwar  
Warren County Health Department  
315 W. Washington Ave.  
Washington, NJ 07882



*If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please send an e-mail to [cschwar@co.warren.nj.us](mailto:cschwar@co.warren.nj.us) or telephone Carol Schwar at (908) 689-6693.*

## ***Announcing Our MAFP Fall 2007 Seminar***

**Tuesday, October 23, 2007**

8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

**Cook College Campus Center, Rutgers, New Brunswick, NJ**

***MAFP is an affiliate of the  
International Association for Food Protection (IAFP)***

The International Association for Food Protection (formerly IAMFES), founded in 1911, is a non-profit association of food safety professionals. Comprised of a diverse membership of over 3,000 Members from 50 nations, the Association is dedicated to the education and service of its Members, as well as industry personnel.

Through the Association, Members are able to keep informed of the latest scientific, technical, and practical developments in food safety and sanitation. The Association provides its Members with an information network through its two scientific journals, Dairy, Food and Environmental Sanitation and Journal of Food Protection, its educational Annual Meeting, and interaction with other food safety professionals. For more information, and a membership application, you may visit the IAFP website: [www.foodprotection.org](http://www.foodprotection.org) or call 800-369-6337.