

# OUTBREAK CASE SHEET

## for Public Health Officials (PHOs)

Your role as Public Health Officials (PHOs) is to:

### Present the Case

Give the FBI teams a briefing on the "Case Background" (see below). Present the information in a fun, innovative way.

### Give Updates and Clues

Give a new Update to the FBI teams every 5 to 10 minutes. Give the Clues, as necessary, to get teams thinking about where the information in the Update might lead them.

### Answer Questions

Use The 5 "Ws" and the "How" of the Case as a resource for answering questions from the FBI teams. Note: The suspected food is referred to as a beverage; don't identify it as orange juice. The FBI investigators should be the ones to discover that it's orange juice.

### Lead Class Discussion

At the end of the activity, use the Update Background to help lead the discussion on team strategies.

## CASE BACKGROUND

### A Real-life Foodborne Outbreak

*110 people in Seattle, Washington, and 39 people in Portland, Oregon, became ill.  
The PHOs found that the victims experienced similar symptoms.*

Here's how the information was compiled:

- 1. Patients** came to doctors displaying some or all of the following symptoms: diarrhea, fever, chills, and bloody diarrhea.
- 2. Doctors** made their initial diagnoses and sent stool cultures from the patient to a clinical laboratory.
- 3. The clinical laboratory** tested the stool cultures and detected a foodborne bacterium and sent isolates of the bacterial cultures to the county or state health departments.
- 4. The state health department laboratories** identified the foodborne bacterium. Because the multiple cases reported were above the expected level based on historical data, an outbreak was suspected. They immediately jumped into action.
- 5. The CDC Foodborne and Diarrheal Diseases Branch** in Atlanta, Georgia was notified, as was the FDA office in Seattle.
  - Local and state officials initiated an investigation.
  - Sick people were interviewed.
  - Local laboratories were called to see if there were any other cases reported.
- 6. The CDC Foodborne and Diarrheal Diseases Branch** determined that the pathogens from Oregon and Washington matched.