Questions with Answers for the Foodborne Outbreak Response Team Training

1. (2A) The annual economic burden of $15.5 billion due to foodborne illness as described by the USDA – ERS is associated with the following:

   a) Industry-related costs
   b) The cost estimate for the 15 major pathogens causing foodborne illness in the U.S.
   c) The cost associated with premature deaths in the U.S.
   d) All costs associated with foodborne illness in the U.S.

2. (2B) The agent that causes the most foodborne illness in the U.S.:

   a) Virus
   b) Parasites
   c) Bacteria
   d) Marine algal toxins

3. (2C) Foodborne illness may be considered an outbreak:

   a) When two or more cases with similar symptoms are identified
   b) If a person makes the claim that they know where they became ill
   c) When two or more persons experience similar illness and a common source of illness is identified
   d) If cases of illness are associated in time and place

4. (3B) The Food and Drug Administration (FDA):

   a) Is the lead federal agency for the safety of the U.S. meat and poultry supply
   b) Coordinates epidemiologic investigations for multistate outbreaks
   c) Developed the Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation Network (CORE)
   d) Coordinates the Foodborne Disease Active Surveillance System (FoodNet)

5. (3C) Effective response team communication possesses the following characteristics:

   a) Should be varied such as changing pitch and tone so that it catches the listeners’ attention
   b) Should not follow lines of command or it may discourage participation
   c) Should clarify the roles and responsibilities expected by team members
   d) Always be accomplished by the PIO

6. (4A) Laboratory surveillance systems:

   a) are not very sensitive as they may not find disease when it is actually present
   b) usually involve simple procedures
   c) are pathogen-specific in nature
   d) generally, take little time to identify a cluster
7. (4C) A case definition:
   a) is static and will be unchanged throughout an investigation
   b) should not include features of the illness due to reporting inaccuracies
   c) should include features of illness, geographic, and temporal information
   d) is a method used to develop an interview survey

8. (5A) The Outbreaks of Undetermined Etiology Guidelines developed by CIFOR are a useful tool:
   a) To support the environmental investigator as they seek to identify contributing factors
   b) To guide laboratory staff on the appropriate analytic methods to identify foodborne disease agents
   c) That supports the identification of an agent of foodborne disease through signs and symptoms coupled with geographic and exposure information (history).
   d) For the bacteria identification

9. (5B) When considering collecting food samples, the following should be considered:
   a) Collect as much as possible and wait for instructions from response team partners
   b) Freeze all samples so that pathogens are preserved
   c) Remove foods from original packaging and place directly in a sterile container
   d) Sampling must be supported by the information from response team partners

10. (5C) Molecular detection assays such as the multiplex PCR panels, referred to as CIDT:
    a) May lead to a lack of understanding of antimicrobial resistance patterns
    b) has not changed reporting of foodborne illness agents to PulseNet
    c) provides a rapid test for antimicrobial resistance
    d) provides readily-available specimens for further identification by culture-based assays

11. (6A) An epi curves that rises gradually and may fatten out represents:
    a) A continuous common source outbreak
    b) A propagated outbreak
    c) A point source outbreak
    d) An outbreak associated with a food toxin

12. (6B) A cohort study:
    a) Matches people with illness to people with no illness
    b) Is used to investigate multi-state outbreaks
    c) Determines association called by calculating an odds ratio
    d) Is an analytic study on a well-defined group of people

13. (6C) A confidence interval is the range of values for a particular measure of association:
    a) is calculated so that the range has a specified probability of including the “true value” of the measure of association
    b) and shows a statistically significant, positive association if the confidence interval includes 1.0
    c) and generally uses a 90% probability to calculate the range of values
d) is simply due to chance

14. (7A) The three contributing factors leading to foodborne illness are:
   
a) people, equipment, and economics
b) **contamination, survival, and proliferation**
c) risks, hazards, and contamination
d) risks, contamination, and environmental antecedents

15. (7C) The use of notification as a control measure:
   
a) should be conducted as soon as illness is observed
b) should be the activity of the federal partners involved in the outbreak
   
c) **should be used when there is clear and convincing evidence of ongoing threat of illness associated with the outbreak**
d) should always follow the universally-accepted HAN format of the CDC

16. (8A) Multistate foodborne outbreak responses:
   
a) have been facilitated by the use of advanced molecular detection methods
b) do not pose a significant public health impact
c) are a significant proportion of the annual outbreaks in the United States
d) are coordinated by local health departments

17. (8B) An outbreak involving large numbers of cases, a very severe pathogen, or an intentional contamination may be referred to as a ____________ outbreak.
   
a) multistate
b) environmental
c) investigational
d) **complex**

18. (8C) Adding laboratory capacity such as the FERN or LRN during an outbreak response is an example of which of the following?
   
a) horizontal scaling
b) obtaining an epi-aid
   
c) **vertical scaling**
d) engaged response

19. (9B) STARCC is an acronym used to develop effective risk communication. All of the following are principles except for which of the following:
   
a) Relevant
b) Consistent
c) Credible
d) **Contentious**

20. (10B) The National Outbreak Reporting System:
   
a) is a data collection system to report waterborne, foodborne other enteric diseases
b) only includes the CDC and its state and local partners

   c) allows the reporting of cluster investigations

   d) requires that people wanting to obtain information from the system go through a vetting process