

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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CL 2021/4/OCS-FH  
February 2021

**TO:** Codex Contact Points  
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

**FROM:** Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission,  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

**SUBJECT:** Request for comments at Step 6 on the draft Guidance for the Management of Biological Foodborne Outbreaks

**DEADLINE:** 30 June 2021

## BACKGROUND

1. For background information, please refer to document REP20/FH, Appendix III.<sup>1</sup>
2. CCFH51 advanced the proposed draft Guidance for the Management of Biological Foodborne Outbreaks to CAC43 for adoption at Step 5<sup>2</sup> and further agreed to convene a Physical Working Group (PWG) to be held immediately prior to CCFH52 to consider all comments received and to prepare a revised draft for consideration by CCFH52.<sup>3</sup>
3. CAC43 adopted the text at Step 5 and advanced it to Step 6 for comments.<sup>4</sup>

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

4. Codex members and observers are invited to submit comments on the draft Guidance for the Management of Biological Foodborne Outbreaks which is uploaded to the Codex Online Commenting System (OCS): <https://ocs.codexalimentarius.org/>, as per the guidance below.
5. In submitting comments on the above, Codex members and observers are invited to consider the discussions and decisions made at CCFH51, in particular the decisions on definitions, analytical methods, rapid assessment and outbreak assessment, combining epidemiological and laboratory data and the annexes<sup>5</sup>. Special attention should be given to provide comments on the annexes with the aim of improving their content as noted by CCFH51.

## GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

6. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Codex members and observers using the OCS.
7. Contact Points of Codex members and observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting "Enter" in the "My reviews" page, available after login to the system.
8. Contact Points of Codex members and observers organizations are requested to provide proposed changes and relevant comments/justifications on a specific paragraph (under the categories: editorial, substantive, technical and translation) and/or at the document level (general comments or summary comments). Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the [OCS Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).
9. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/circular-letters/en/>.
10. For questions on the OCS, please contact [Codex-OCS@fao.org](mailto:Codex-OCS@fao.org).

<sup>1</sup> Full discussion is available in REP20/FH, paras 89 - 103

<sup>2</sup> REP20/FH, para. 103

<sup>3</sup> REP20/FH, para. 103

<sup>4</sup> REP20/CAC, para. 76

<sup>5</sup> REP20/FH, paras 93 - 102