

Table. Overview of international alert systems and other networks that should or may be used for European foodborne outbreaks or incidents potentially involving more than one country

Name	Responsible entity	Legal status	Health / food	Mode of communication	Objective	Accessible for	Events to be reported
<p>ECDC-FWD-EPIS (Urgent inquiries)</p> <p>Epidemic Intelligence Information System</p> <p>http://external.ecdc.europa.eu/EPIS_FWD/</p>	EU system managed by the ECDC-FWD network	Voluntary	Health	<p>Electronic communication platform with restricted access</p> <p>EPIS:</p> <p>Was email based until one year ago</p>	<p>Informal exchange of disease-specific technical information before a threat on European level is confirmed .</p> <p>Facilitate integrated communication from both epi and lab side.</p>	<p>FWD expert microbiologists and epidemiologists in EU + EFTA/EEA countries nominated by competent bodies for surveillance. The EWRS contact points have read-only access.</p> <p>Also some other countries that were part of the previous Enter-Net network have access (USA, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Australia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey)</p>	<p>Clusters and suspected foodborne outbreaks which may have international ramifications</p> <p>May also be used by participants to get information from other countries in order to provide ideas for sources of exposure and for the investigation of national outbreaks.</p>
<p>EWRS</p> <p>Early Warning and Response System</p> <p>https://ewrs.ecdc.europa.eu</p>	EU system managed by the European Commission	Legally binding*	Health	Web-based communication platform with restricted access.	Communication relating to infectious disease incidents at the European level in particular concerning control measures. A risk management tool. All infectious diseases.	<p>EU + EFTA/EEA Public health authorities. Communication performed by small number of nominated contact points. Messages are also visible to WHO EURO if country requests this. But it is not the equivalent of an IHR notification.</p>	<p>Events likely to affect public health at the EU-level – including foodborne events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outbreaks, • exchange of information and discussion about coordination of measures
<p>RASFF</p> <p>Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/index_en.htm</p>	EU system managed by the European Commission	Legally binding [†]	Food	E-mail and electronic communication platform with restricted access. Uses template forms which are filled in and transmitted via restricted website	Communicates health risks associated with food or feed between member states.	Nominated contact points in EU/EEA countries + EFTA Surveillance Authority partially Switzerland (animal origin product), the Commission, and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). By choice: INFOSAN.	Information about serious direct or indirect risk to human health deriving from food or feed, and any measures put in place (e.g. recall, border rejection)

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IHR International Health Regulations http://www.who.int/ihr/en/	WHO	Legally binding	All hazards	Should use the most efficient means of communication available From National IHR Focal Point to WHO IHR Contact point Electronic communication platform with restricted access.	To prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.	Global: accessible to dedicated national IHR focal points in all states parties to the IHR (2005), WHO and selected Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs)	Notification, information sharing and consultation (art 6, 7 and 8) of events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern (algorithm in Annex 2)
INFOSAN International Food Safety Authorities Network http://www.who.int/foodsafety/fs_management/infosan/en/	WHO/FAO	Voluntary	Food	E-mail and electronic communication platform with restricted access.	Share information on important food safety related issues of global interest plus collaboration between countries help capacity build-up.	Global: Food safety authorities designated as focal points by the member countries (at present 177 countries)	Events suspected or confirmed as involving a food product imported from or exported to countries outside the EU Countries can indicate the information should be and can be shared with INFOSAN when reporting to RASFF's (tick box on RASFF's reporting form)
Typing networks; examples including PulseNet, FBVE(Foodborne Viruses in Europe network) etc http://www.cdc.gov/pulsenet/ http://www.noronet.nl/fbve/	Varies, typically EU funded.	Voluntary	Health	Upload of typing information using electronic communication platform with restricted access.	Share and compare molecular subtyping data information to assist in determining the source of a cluster or outbreak (national or international)	Varies, but includes national public health laboratories and may also include veterinary and food laboratories (at present , from 82 countries).	DNA-molecular subtyping information along with relevant epidemiological information, on cluster or outbreak associated pathogens such as norovirus or <i>Salmonella</i> , VTEC and <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>

* [Decision 2019/98/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council, and [Decision 2000/57/EC](#)

† [Regulation EC/178/2002](#): Articles 50, 51 and 52 define the scope and procedures of the RASFF.