Partnership for Food Protection (PFP)

Strategic Plan

2021 through 2026

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INTRODUCTION

The function of an Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS)

An **Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS)** provides the vision, guiding principles and key components of a coordinated approach to food safety; it is not a final end-state. An IFSS describes the continual improvements and guiding principles of food safety that will be addressed through the implementation of a collection of initiatives, programs and projects.

An IFSS includes the implementation of seamless partnerships and operations among federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal agencies as well as academic, foreign, industry and consumer stakeholders (strategic partners) to achieve the public health mission of realizing a safer food supply. An IFSS encourages interactions and collaborations with strategic partners, as their input and the lessons learned allow an IFSS to evolve.

An IFSS leverages the participation, coordination, resources, and authorities of all strategic partners to protect the food supply. The seamless operations of an IFSS with our strategic partners will:

- Consist of robust, high-quality data integration and analysis systems and information sharing mechanisms among partners
- Leverage the resources, talent, subject matter expertise, and efforts among partners to create an integrated global food safety network that will achieve the best public health outcome
- Operate a coordinated and comparable regulatory system of inspection, surveillance, investigation, enforcement, and response
- Improve response capabilities to foodborne illness outbreaks, recalls, and food emergencies
- Demonstrate commitment to meeting consumer's expectations of safe, high-quality foods for purchase and consumption

Role of the PFP

The Partnership for Food Protection (PFP) is comprised of dedicated professionals from strategic partners with roles in protecting the food supply and public health. The PFP is the structure used to coordinate representatives from these institutions with expertise in food, feed, epidemiology, laboratory, animal health, environment, and public health to develop and implement an Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS). The PFP is not a policy setting organization. The function of the PFP is to promote communication and integration between all jurisdictions and provide resources, risk-informed insight, and best practices to improve the system that partners can utilize to inform and enhance their work to protect public health.

PFP Vision
Mutual reliance for a safer food supply

PFP Mission
Collaboration – Sharing Solutions – Solving Problems

PFP Strategic Plan

The PFP Governing Council sees the PFP as a unique resource to strategic partners for obtaining the tools and knowledge available to support integration. The strategic plan focuses primarily on integrating functions related to manufactured human and animal food. The plan recognizes the importance of the collaborative efforts of both regulatory and non-regulatory strategic partners to achieve an IFSS.

Inherent within the plan is the advancement of domestic mutual reliance (DMR). DMR is a seamless partnership that enables FDA and states with comparable regulatory public health systems, as trusted partners, to rely on, coordinate with, and leverage one another's work, data, and actions to meet the public health goal of a safe national food supply. The purpose of this partnership is to improve industry compliance, avoid duplication of effort, drive efficiencies, and prevent or reduce human and animal foodborne illness outbreaks.

DMR is a key component of the New Era of Smarter Food Safety, an FDA initiative that represents a new approach to food safety, leveraging technology and other tools to create a more digital, more traceable, and safer food system. The plan supports concepts identified within the New Era Blueprint, which advances strategic partners toward an IFSS.

This plan will be reviewed every two years to allow for adjustments based on recent accomplishments and changes in the regulatory landscape. Use of the word "food" in this strategic plan applies to both human and animal food.

Strategic Partners[1]
- Federal Agencies
- Local Governments
- State Governments
- U.S. Territories
- Tribal Nations
- Associations
- Academia
- Industry
- Consumer groups
- Foreign agencies

Workgroups
- Outreach (OT)
- Work Planning, Inspections and Compliance (WP)
- Surveillance, Response, and Post-Response (SRPR)
- Laboratory Science (Lab)
- Training and Credentialing (TC)
- Information Technology (IT)

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[1] The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) shares the public health regulatory responsibility with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for ensuring the safety of the U.S. food supply. FSIS is an IFSS and PFP partner, however, the accompanying strategic plan does not include or reflect FSIS laws and regulations and the way it relates to state agencies.

Strategic Goals, <u>Objectives</u>, and Workgroup Action Items

1. Strengthen communication and collaboration among PFP members and stakeholders
  1. <u>Build and enhance laboratory data sharing infrastructure</u>
     a. Enhance and support laboratory data sharing mechanisms, such as NFSDX, increasing the number of laboratories participating in data sharing networks. (Lab)
     b. Determine gaps, limitations, and/or barriers that may exist in state laboratory IT infrastructures that prevent full integration in the FDA/state data exchange. (IT)
     c. Continue expanding the Sample Analysis data sharing capabilities by (IT):
        i. Enabling submission of additional Sample Analysis types for Contracted (FDA Collected) Samples.
        ii. Enabling upload of finalized Sample Analysis work package documents.
        iii. Expanding support for submitting State collected Sample Analysis.

  2. <u>Build and enhance inspection and compliance data sharing infrastructure</u>
     a. Leverage communication surrounding compliance activities between agencies with an alert or notification tool (WP)
     b. Conduct analysis to review functionality and improve work planning processes, increase prevention effectiveness, detection capability and capacity, and response capability and capacity. (IT)
     c. Collaborate with the DX Program to work toward enhancing available capabilities that support work planning assignment and tracking information sharing, enhance data sharing capabilities (e.g., RFR, recalls etc.) to enable Inventory Reconciliation/Firm Data Matching capabilities (IT)
     d. Expand ORA DX Firm History data sharing capabilities (e.g., RFR, recalls etc.) and enable Inventory Reconciliation/Firm Data Matching capabilities. (IT)
     e. Work toward consolidating information sharing capabilities and retire legacy systems to meet the vision of Mutual Reliance and ORA DX information sharing (e.g., Facilitate transfer of information sharing from eSAF to DX.). (IT)
     f. Work with the DX Program to continue enhancing ORAPP, to provide additional common capabilities and integrated solutions. (IT)
     g. Collaborate with the ORA DX Outreach group to expand support for external data sharing with regulatory partners (e.g., animal feed). (IT)
     h. Improve data infrastructure and business intelligence capabilities, to expand the data exchange integration, ORA Partners Portal solution, advance tools and applications, and support core business capability. (IT)
     i. Promote system and technology agnostic data sharing with regulatory partners. (IT)

  3. <u>Enhance internal outreach to ensure consistency of communications and messaging</u>
     a. Collaborate with the DX Program to support the rebranding for the DX, for state users and FDA stakeholders. (IT)
     b. Coordinate and collaborate with other internal PFP workgroups and FDA teams, to further enhance data exchange capabilities. Continue discussions with partners and other teams to focus on data sharing privacy, outreach and training activities, and cross PFP WG information sharing and collaboration. (IT)

    c. Work with the DX Program to implement internal reporting and tracking capabilities to measure DX systems usage. (IT)

    d. Increase PFP member interaction and collaboration. (OT)
        i. Establish outreach liaisons amongst PFP workgroups with Outreach WG.
        ii. Ensure coverage of each workgroup in PFP communications

    e. Increase content disseminated from PFP. (OT)
        i. Identify routine and seasonal communication calendar(s)/schedule(s).
        ii. Continue to conduct regular website updates, social media content.
        iii. Schedule AFDO podcast interviews for PFP WG updates and products.

    f. Increase PFP's ability to communicate faster/more frequently. (OT)
        i. Identify ongoing components of PFP work & develop staffing plans (and any funding support) for long-term outreach efforts (incorporate Office of Communications to support PFP efforts).
        ii. Increase Outreach WG awareness of current and future communication needs (fill any gaps in outreach coverage)

4. <u>Enhance external outreach to partners and stakeholders</u>
    a. Promote and evaluate awareness and adoption of previously developed resources from Lab WG that promote data utilization. Determine gaps that still exist and additional best practice resources that may be needed. (Lab)
    b. Promote and communicate adoption of Recall Shadowing project implemented in GA with HAF 3E and the GA Department of Agriculture (SRPR)
        i. Identify and solicit State and FDA partners to engage in shadowing project
        ii. Communicate and publicize lessons learned
    c. Review how animal food complaints are shared amongst partners (SRPR)
    d. Collaborate with the PFP Outreach Workgroup to share training resources available to strategic partners. (TC)
    e. Collaborate with the PFP Surveillance, Response, and Post-Response to share training resources available to strategic partners. (TC)
    f. Collaborate with the PFP Outreach Workgroup to share credentialing resources available to strategic partners. (TC)
    g. Collaborate with the PFP Outreach Workgroup to promote the National Curriculum Standards and associated training. (TC)
    h. Promote the alignment of Standard 2 for each regulatory program with the National Curriculum Standard for Human and Animal Food. (TC)
    i. Collaborate with the DX Program to support the rebranding for the DX, for state users and FDA stakeholders. (IT)
    j. As needed, collaborate with other groups (e.g., PFP Lab WG, state labs, and other FDA leaders), for guidance and expertise on identifying additional laboratories able to assist in the adoption and testing of ORA DX Samples information sharing capabilities. (IT)
    k. Coordinate and collaborate with regulatory partners to further enhance data exchange capabilities and provide updates on project progress. (IT)
    l. Expand the adoption of available IT solutions, by reaching out to other groups, such as the animal food community. (IT)
    m. Implement internal reporting, tracking capabilities that measures DX systems usage and evaluate usability changes, used to develop case studies regarding regulatory partner efficiency gains as a result of DX capabilities, for discussion with stakeholder groups. (IT)

n. Continue the improvements to existing guidance materials that support regulatory partners with onboarding the DX. (IT)
o. Increase communication channels to promote PFP awareness and materials. (OT)
    i. Increase use of existing communications platforms
    ii. Build in additional opportunities (PowToon accounts, CDRH videos)
    iii. Continue to update website to share these materials.
p. Increase PFP's network of stakeholder affiliates (external partnerships). (OT)

2. Develop regulatory capacity and standards

Objectives:

1. Develop, implement and support National Curriculum Standards
    a. Support the NCS Laboratory Framework by providing SME input and review on competency and course development. (Lab)
    b. Utilize SMEs to provide input on NCS development for inspectors/investigators and laboratorians (and other future IFSS professional tracks) (curriculum frameworks, competency statements, behavioral anchors, online, field, and classroom training). (TC)
    c. Engage stakeholders to ensure training standards are aligned with need. (TC)
    d. Align and sequence training content and learning events (new and existing) to meet the NCS. (TC)
    e. Collaborate with the PFP Laboratory Sciences Workgroup to develop the National Laboratory Curriculum Framework and subsequent training products. (TC)
    f. Engage stakeholders to validate the National Curriculum Standards. (TC)
    g. Engage in gap and inventory analysis to align and sequence training content and learning events with the National Curriculum Standards. (TC)
    h. Harmonize the Leadership Levels of the National Curriculum Standards (Human and Animal Food & Laboratory). (TC)
    i. In collaboration with PFP Workgroups, utilize SMEs to develop and/or re-develop training content and learning events in alignment with the National Curriculum Standards and the New Era of Smarter Food's Four Core Elements. (TC)
    j. Establish a review and updating cycle for the National Curriculum Standards. (TC)
    k. Establish a review and updating cycle for the training content in alignment with the National Curriculum Standards. (TC)
    l. Outreach to develop a NSC section of the website (share/link to OTED) (OT)

2. Align with New Era Blueprint and ORA's domestic mutual reliance initiative
    a. Catalogue existing training tools/resources into a searchable database necessary for the "New Era of Smarter Food Safety". (SRPR)
    b. Identify gaps in existing training tools/resources to include traceback, root cause analysis, whole genome sequencing (WGS) and culture independent diagnostic tests (CIDTs), new epidemiology and environmental health tools/approaches (i.e. environmental sampling and assessments etc.) (SRPR)
    c. Address identified gaps in training tools and resources with Centers of Excellence (CoEs) and/or other PFP workgroups. (SRPR)

3. Coordinate and leverage laboratory capacity and capability
    a. Develop best practices based on lessons learned from COVID-19. (Lab)

b. Evaluate opportunities and implement new capabilities through the ORA DX, to support increasing regulatory capacity, by automating information sharing and direct integration among FDA and regulatory partners. (OT)

4. Increase data acceptance to maximize laboratory capacity
   a. Support laboratory use of the Compliance Checklist to help increase data utilization. Incorporate feedback from laboratories into updated version(s) of the Checklist. (Lab)

3. Champion consistent inspections and compliance best practices among regulators
   Objectives:
1. Create and deliver information on the development and maintenance of field inspections and compliance regulatory best practices tools
   a. Update portions of the model 'Best Practices' document (WP)
   b. Transition parts of the 'Best Practices' document into checklists, where appropriate (WP)
   c. Map the core process of work planning between FDA and State partners (WP)
   d. Develop decision mapping tools to triage compliance activities (WP)
   e. Collaborate with the PFP Outreach Workgroup to promote the National Curriculum Standards and associated training. (TC)
   f. Establish a uniform instructor training. (TC)
   g. Establish a uniform instructor evaluation system. (TC)
   h. Conduct a gap analysis of Standard 2 for each regulatory program against the National Curriculum Standard for Human and Animal Food. (TC)

2. Support implementation and integration of the field inspections, sampling, and regulatory compliance best practices tools
   a. Support regulatory program standards, particularly Standard 10. Review and provide input on changes to Standard 10 when necessary. (Lab)
   b. Develop a communications plan to more widely circulate the updated 'Best Practices' document (WP)
   c. Update the Best Practices for Improving Communication during Recalls document (SRPR)
      i. Review and update document as needed to reflect current practices and ensure consistency amongst existing/planned documents by other groups (e.g. AFDO, RRT)
   a. Review and assess utility of current/existing SRPR documents (SRPR)
   b. Utilize SMEs to participate in credentialing feasibility studies. (TC)
   c. Utilize SMEs to participate in determining specific credentialing needs for the various NCS professional career tracks and levels. (TC)
   d. Utilize SMEs to assist with developing the system and tools needed to support credentialing under an IFSS. (TC)
   e. Engage stakeholders to determine if credentialing standards are aligned with needs. (TC)
   f. Enhance ORA DX and collaborate with the FDA and regulatory partners to support the implementation of best practices tools. (IT)

3. Enhance collaboration on training and communication of laboratory methods

a. Develop and publish Best Practice Document for Using Whole Genome Sequencing in Food Safety Programs (SRPR)
   i. Describe how WGS data is used by CDC PulseNet and FDA (GenomeTRAKR/NCBI) and how it is used to enhance surveillance, cluster detection, and outbreak response (Target audience are participants of the PFP and state, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) officials working in or responsible for food safety programs)
   ii. Establish a common operating language for laboratory and regulatory personnel to improve communication.
   iii. Provide a crosswalk between tools used by the CDC PulseNet (Bionumerics, SEDRIC) and FDA GenomeTRAKR (NCBI, Pathogen Detection) networks and explore coordination
b. Continue discussions with partners and other teams to focus on data sharing privacy, outreach, and training activities. (IT)
c. Continue expanding support for external data sharing with regulatory partners. (IT)
d. Work with the DX Outreach group to continue to develop and standardize data sharing structures and support regulatory partners with guidance on adoption. (IT)
e. Outreach & Laboratory WGs to continue collaborating to communicate achievements (OT)

4. Promote coordinated and effective outbreak responses
Objectives:
1. <u>Provide forum to share response strategies and outreach for pandemic and other emerging public health issues.</u>
   a. Develop activities to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on foodborne disease surveillance and response (SRPR)
      i. Foster a series of discussions on COVID-19 pandemic response and program capacity/challenges to conduct routine work; and develop lessons learned involving federal and SLTT partners
      ii. Documenting best practices related to event/incident response, work prioritization and potential reduced capacity in food safety programs
   b. Seek and share success stories about PFP, IFSS, mutual reliance examples. (OT)
      i. Write, pitch & publish information (PFP website & other outlets).
      ii. Ensure COVID-19 related communication is factored within promotional plans.

2. <u>Strengthen collaboration with all strategic partners for outbreak prevention</u>
   a. Develop best practices on WGS data communication between regulatory partners (Lab)
   b. Promote 20.88 agreements with local health jurisdictions to increase their participation in federal/state/local multistate outbreak coordination (i.e. participation in CORE, Firm and CDC calls and sharing of information) (SRPR)
   c. Promote use of chapters 1-9 of RRT Best Practices Manual with non-RRT states and FDA Divisions (SRPR)
   d. Evaluate opportunities to enhance ORA DX in support of outbreak response coordination and information sharing. (IT)
   e. Increase PFP's network of stakeholder affiliates (external partnerships). (OT)