



Partnership for Food Protection  
Surveillance, Response, and Post-Response Workgroup

# INFORMATION SHARING

## FDA's 20.88 Information Sharing Agreements

### What is a 21 CFR 20.88 agreement?

A "20.88" is an information sharing agreement that allows FDA to share non-public information with state and local government officials.

### Why is this critical to local health agencies?

Public health agencies need the most current and critical information during foodborne outbreaks, product tracing, recalls, or other food emergencies. Non-public information obtained by FDA cannot be shared with partners without an information sharing agreement. 20.88 agreements help get you the information you need when you need it.

### WE'RE INTERESTED, WHAT'S NEXT?

[Reach out to FDAInfoShare@fda.hhs.gov today!](mailto:FDAInfoShare@fda.hhs.gov)

### What is new with this process?

A new type of 20.88 agreement has been developed by the FDA to allow local health agencies to quickly receive information through their state partner. Work directly with your existing contacts at your state agency, streamlining information sharing when it matters most!

### What value is the Limited Scope 20.88 to local health agencies?

When your state agency has an extension 20.88 agreement, they can share non-public information received from the FDA quickly and easily with their local health agencies that have limited scope 20.88 agreements in place. This new model makes the most of the relationship with your state and allows response partners to share product traceback information and respond to foodborne outbreaks, recalls and other emergencies more effectively.

### How does it work?

- The local health authority signs a Limited Scope 20.88 with the FDA.
- The primary state agency signs an extension 20.88 agreement with the FDA.
- The FDA grants the primary state agency partner permission to share non-public information received from the FDA directly with the local health agency.

**Why is the Partnership for Food Protection supporting this new model for information sharing?** *The PFP's Surveillance, Response and Post-Response (PFP SRPR) workgroup knows how important sharing information is amongst all partners involved in foodborne emergencies like outbreaks and recalls. The PFP SRPR has done a lot of work to enhance communication amongst partners in the past and is excited to continue this effort by helping get the word out about this new opportunity developed by the FDA. It is critical to the strength of our integrated food safety system that federal agencies like the FDA can quickly and easily share pertinent information with state and local health agencies when they need it.*

