OUTBREAK CASE SHEET

for Public Health Officials (PHOs)

Your role as Public Health Officials (PHOs) is to:

**Present the Case**
Give the FBI teams a briefing on the “Case Background” (see below). Present the information in a fun, innovative way.

**Give Updates and Clues**
Give a new Update to the FBI teams every 5 to 10 minutes. Give the Clues, as necessary, to get teams thinking about where the information in the Update might lead them.

**Answer Questions**
Use The 5 “Ws” and the “How” of the Case as a resource for answering questions from the FBI teams. Note: The suspected food is referred to as a beverage; don’t identify it as orange juice. The FBI investigators should be the ones to discover that it’s orange juice.

**Lead Class Discussion**
At the end of the activity, use the Update Background to help lead the discussion on team strategies.

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**CASE BACKGROUND**

A Real-life Foodborne Outbreak

110 people in Seattle, Washington, and 39 people in Portland, Oregon, became ill. The PHOs found that the victims experienced similar symptoms.

Here's how the information was compiled:

1. **Patients** came to doctors displaying some or all of the following symptoms: diarrhea, fever, chills, and bloody diarrhea.
2. **Doctors** made their initial diagnoses and sent stool cultures from the patient to a clinical laboratory.
3. The **clinical laboratory** tested the stool cultures and detected a foodborne bacterium and sent isolates of the bacterial cultures to the county or state health departments.
4. The **state health department laboratories** identified the foodborne bacterium. Because the multiple cases reported were above the expected level based on historical data, an outbreak was suspected. They immediately jumped into action.
5. The **CDC Foodborne and Diarrheal Diseases Branch** in Atlanta, Georgia was notified, as was the FDA office in Seattle.
   - Local and state officials initiated an investigation.
   - Sick people were interviewed.
   - Local laboratories were called to see if there were any other cases reported.
6. The **CDC Foodborne and Diarrheal Diseases Branch** determined that the pathogens from Oregon and Washington matched.