

**Reference G2**  
**REFERENCE MANUAL 83**  
**Procedures for Investigating Foodborne Disease Outbreaks**

- A.1 General disease reporting guidelines should be followed as outlined in Reference G1.
  
- A.2 If the investigation identifies a suspect food item as the source of the outbreak, the following activities should be conducted:
  - a) All persons (ill or well) potentially exposed to the suspect food item should be identified and interviewed.
  - b) Suspect food samples (from the kitchen and dumpsters) should be collected and stored at 40°F or lower. The public health consultant will decide which foods should be submitted for laboratory testing.
  - c) Suspect food items should be removed from service, pending laboratory results.
  - d) A food safety evaluation of the suspected food service facility should be conducted by the public health consultant.
  - e) Symptomatic persons should be referred to a health care provider for evaluation and laboratory testing.
  
- A.3 Additional outbreak investigation procedures may be developed in consultation with local, state, and federal health officials.