Virtual Public Meeting on Data and Technology in the New Era of Smarter Food Safety

April 24, 2024
10:00AM - 4:00PM ET

Public Meeting Topics for Consideration

The purpose of the public meeting titled "Data and Technology in the New Era of Smarter Food Safety" is for FDA and stakeholders to share information and thinking on ways we can leverage data and technology to exponentially advance food safety under the New Era of Smarter Food Safety.

We welcome feedback on which activities FDA should focus efforts under the New Era of Smarter Food Safety to leverage data and technology to exponentially advance food safety. Examples of activities we are considering as part of the continuing New Era work and would like to hear feedback from stakeholders on include:

- Tech-enabled traceability
- Predictive analytics
- Data sharing
- Whole genome sequencing (i.e., GenomeTrakr)
- Ways to use technology to monitor and gather data
- Technological innovation in equipment design, digital tools, and training methods

Questions for Consideration:

We encourage public comment during the public meeting and invite stakeholders to submit written comments and other materials to the docket. The feedback we receive will help FDA identify activities we should prioritize under the New Era of Smarter Food Safety and shape further stakeholder engagement opportunities.

- ***Tech-enabled traceability***

1) What additional steps can FDA, industry, and other stakeholders take to enable and enhance traceability across the global food supply chain?

2) How can FDA help promote collaboration and information sharing between technology providers and food supply chain entities to support low- or no-cost traceability solutions?

3) What are the greatest challenges to creating a more digital, traceable global food supply, and how can FDA and stakeholders work together to approach this in a manner that creates shared value for all participants?

4) How can FDA best work with the food industry and State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) regulatory partners in testing FDA's internal Product Tracing System (PTS)?

5) What are the most promising use-cases for deploying Artificial Intelligence (AI) or other emerging tools to advance food traceability across the food industry sector?

6) Beyond food safety, where else can tech-enabled traceability create value for the food industry?

- ***Predictive analytics***

7) What other food safety problems can be solved through (Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning) AI/ML application?

8) How are you using AI/ML to strengthen predictive analytics and ensure food safety?

9) What limitations exist that prevent you from applying AI/ML tools in your work on food safety?

10) What concerns do you have regarding the application of AI/ML methods?

11) What could FDA do or provide to facilitate your application of AI/ML for the benefit of a safer food safety system?

- ***Data sharing***

11) What food safety challenge are you facing that could be addressed through data sharing?

12) What knowledge gaps need to be filled by increasing data access through sharing data with FDA?

13) What food safety data do you have that you would be willing to share with FDA?

14) What data would you share to a public-private trust?

15) What are the obstacles that prevent you from sharing data with FDA?

16) What would mitigate concerns with sharing data through a public-private data trust to advance predictive analytics?

17) What would incentivize you to share data with FDA?

18) What public and private sector data sources could be used to fully leverage a modern, data-based approach to food safety?

19) What data would you like FDA to share publicly?

20) How would you like to see data shared? (e.g., downloadable excel file vs. visualization with aggregated data through a data sharing platform [i.e., Food Safety Data Sharing Platform])

21) What supplemental data assets (e.g., weather, supply chain, economics, point sources of pollution) would be helpful to explore and overlay with food safety data to provide insights and inform predictive analytics?

22) What interventions could FDA partner on with industry and regulators through data sharing?

- ***Whole genome sequencing (i.e., GenomeTrakr)***

23) How can GenomeTrakr expand to all 50 states?

24) How can GenomeTrakr expand further internationally?

- ***Ways to use technology to monitor and gather data***

24) How can FDA, industry, and SLTT partners use technology to monitor and gather data on sales of foods through E-commerce?

25) What data and research can be collected in partnership with stakeholders to help assess existing regulatory framework in place domestically and internationally for food sold through e-commerce?

26) Are there current ambiguities related to sales of food through e-commerce that could pose risks to consumers? What actions could FDA and partners take?

- ***Technological innovation in equipment design, digital tools, and training methods***

28) What can FDA do to have the biggest impact to meet our Retail Food Program's strategic goals and take it to the next level?

29) What can FDA do, working in partnership with regulatory, industry and academic partners to impact the reduction of Foodborne Illness in the retail food safety environment?

30) Are there specific collaborations between FDA and industry that will help to ensure the safety of retail food?

31) What benefits would be gained by conducting an audit of the traditional retail food safety system's effectiveness and how FDA supports that system?

- ***Food Safety Culture***

32) How can FDA support efforts to quantitatively demonstrate the connection between food safety culture and food safety outcomes? What data can we rely on?

33) Are there ways we can look at data from the food industry (anonymized, disaggregated) and use AI/ML to explore that correlation between food safety and culture maturity?

34) With enough data, what insights can we learn about the development of food safety

measures? And the drivers for food safety and food safety culture performance?

- ***Other***

35) Are there new and emerging areas of innovation that may have not been addressed in the Blueprint but would fit under continuing New Era work?

36) Where should New Era activities include food for animals as well as human food?