



Enforcer

Enforcers prevent foodborne illness from spreading by stopping you from eating contaminated foods!

How do enforcers help?

Enforcers make sure that food service establishments (like restaurants, grocery stores and food processing plants) follow food safety laws such as safe food preparation, proper storage, and preventing cross contamination.

How do public funds impact enforcement?

Public funds affect how many Enforcers are able to work monitoring the foods in our community. If Enforcers are stretched too thin, they won't be able to inspect food establishments regularly, and violations may slip through the cracks.

Careers

Regulatory food safety officials (or officers) & inspectors:

Public officials who make sure food safety laws are followed.

Quality assurance managers & specialists:

Industry employees who make sure their companies follow food safety laws and diligently check food safety systems to be sure they are working as intended.



Researcher

Researchers look for new and more effective ways to prevent outbreaks, stop the spread of an outbreak and treat those infected.

How do researchers help?

Researchers conduct studies on foodborne pathogens and how they spread. This research takes place in laboratories, on farms or processing centers. Researchers also study the distribution and preparation of foods.

How do public funds impact research?

Funding from the public lets researchers conduct independent investigations into the causes and consequences of outbreaks. Public-funded researchers strive to understand causes and solutions, without undue influence from any particular corporation or the food industry.

Careers

Microbiologists:

Laboratory scientists who study germs, including pathogens that make people sick.

Agricultural engineers or food technology researchers:

Scientists who study agricultural production and processing in order to find better, safer ways to grow, process and store food.



Educator

Educators spread knowledge and understanding about different ways to prevent yourself, and loved ones, from getting sick from foodborne illnesses. Knowledge is power!

How do educators help?

State, local and federal agencies have full time Educators, such as food safety specialists who travel within the community to teach about health and safety. They may also distribute information online, through printed materials and signage, or in marketing campaigns about specific food safety issues. Teachers in schools, colleges and universities are also Educators. They train students, farmers, processors, and food service workers in the science and strategy of food safety.

How do public funds impact education?

Public funds affect who and how many people Educators are able to train. For example, if there are budget cuts, Educators who previously reached both high schoolers and elementary schoolers in their community may now only be able to reach one or the other. An increase in public funds could support Educators at more institutions (like colleges and universities), distribute educational materials more broadly, or incorporate food safety education into job training programs.

Careers

Health communicators or health educators:

Specialists who work to help the public understand more about medical treatment, healthy lifestyle choices, disease prevention, and risk management.

Community health workers:

On-the-ground educators who collect data and discuss health concerns within a specific group or community.



Healthcare Professional

Healthcare professionals are responsible for healing people already affected by an outbreak.

Careers

Epidemiologists:

Doctors or officials who investigate



How do healthcare professionals help?

Medics are doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers. These people diagnose and treat people the medical community informed about the pattern and cause of an outbreak.

How do public funds impact healthcare?

Public funds directly support hospitals, healthcare programs, and prescription medication programs. Public funds indirectly support Medics by helping to track outbreaks. This helps keep the medical community informed about the pattern and cause of an outbreak.

patterns and distribution of disease within populations.

Pathologists:

Doctors who diagnose medical conditions to determine the causes of disease. General health providers: Doctors, nurses, and others who care for patients, investigate illnesses, and provide treatment.

This material is based upon work supported by the SPECA Challenge Grant, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2015-38414-24223. Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

©2019 New Mexico State University Board of Regents. All rights reserved. NMSU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educator.

NMSU does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, spousal affiliation or protected veteran status in its programs and activities as required by equal opportunity/affirmative action regulations and laws and university policy and rules. For more information please read the [NMSU Notice of Non-discrimination](#). ([opens in new window](#))

For web issues such as typos, broken links, or other technical problems with the site, please contact [NMSU Innovative Media Research and Extension](#).

To view the [Privacy Policy](#) ([opens in new window](#)).



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture



Learning
Games
Lab

www.learninggameslab.org