Appendix A. Checklist for FoodCORE Laboratory Practices–Table 1a

Receiving Specimens

Yes	No	Partial	Will be implemented (Date)	Practice
				1. Utilize data interoperability to accession isolates and specimens rapidly and accurately
				2. Utilize a courier or equivalent system for rapid transport of specimens/isolates to the PHL
				3. Monitor transport time (e.g., collection date to received date at the PHL) to identify gaps and areas for improvement
				4. Provide guidance for the submission of specimens under conditions of undetermined etiology
				5. Provide guidance for the submission of clinical specimens that are positive by CIDT for pathogens that meet submission requirements in your jurisdiction
				6. Conduct outreach to clinical or commercial labs with submission delays
				7. Provide guidace materials for PHL testing capabilities/services
				8. Conduct trainings and/or provide reference materials for appropriate specimen collection (type of specimen, how to collect and submit, etc.)
				9. Provide guidance stating that clinical and commercial labs and LHD partners notify the PHL when submitting specimens/samples for outbreak investigations

Appendix A. Checklist for FoodCORE Laboratory Practices–Table 1b

Subtyping Specimens

Yes	No	Partial	Will be implemented (Date)	Practice
				10. Reference current PulseNet Standard Operating Procedures and protocols for performing WGS and meet PulseNet's turnaround time for real-time subtyping (from the receipt/recovery of an isolate in the PHL to upload to the PulseNet national database)

Appendix A. Checklist for FoodCORE Laboratory Practices–Table 1c

Reporting Results and Cluster Detection

Yes	No	Partial	Will be implemented (Date)	Practice
				11. Submit all WGS data and metadata to PulseNet national databases within 24 hours of results
				12. Submit raw sequences to NCBI for accessibility to those outside PulseNet
				13. Routinely analyze subtyping results for cluster detection (follow PulseNet's recommended thresholds for detecting WGS clusters, utilize 'Find Clusters Tool' to detect local clusters, and create cgMLST dendrograms and/or similarity matrices to view allele differences)
				14. Routinely compare subtyping results to centralized database results
				15. Link, by subtype, pathogens identified in non-human sources to human illness with the same strain
				16. Utilize shared data systems (SEDRIC, NCBI, PulseNet SharePoint Site) that permit rapid sharing of laboratory information across the core areas of response
				17. Exchange subtyping results in real-time during an investigation across the core areas of response
				18. Exchange routine cluster detection results at least weekly and more frequently if possible
				19. Utilize established methods for exchanging information about potential clusters that are detected between scheduled reports
				20. Participate in meetings and trainings that include laboratory and epidemiology staff so that all staff can interpret laboratory results with interview data