

Surveillance and Outbreak Support (SOS) Team

The SOS Team is funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's FoodCORE program to develop, execute, and disseminate best practices for epidemiologic interviews and investigations.



WHO is the SOS Team and who can they help?



- The SOS Team comprises students from public health and other related programs at UW-Madison, who work at the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (DPH).
- The SOS Team's activities are coordinated by an enteric disease epidemiologist and they work afternoon and evening hours during weekdays.
- The SOS Team supports enteric disease surveillance and outbreak response activities for DPH staff, and Wisconsin's local and tribal health departments, as requested.

WHAT can the SOS Team do when their help is requested?



- Conduct routine interviews with patients who were diagnosed with reportable enteric diseases.
- Conduct outbreak interviews with people during enteric disease investigations.
- Provide data management and support for routine surveillance and outbreak investigations.

WHY do we have an SOS Team?



- To ensure timely and complete interviews are conducted with all patients diagnosed with reportable enteric conditions.
- To increase Wisconsin's capacity for responding quickly and thoroughly to foodborne and other enteric disease outbreaks by providing surge capacity to local and tribal health departments.

WHEN might local or tribal health departments request assistance?



- During an enteric disease outbreak that exceeds the local jurisdiction's capacity, the SOS Team can assist by conducting outbreak interviews and/or performing outbreak related data entry.
- During a non-enteric disease outbreak or event, the SOS Team can conduct routine enteric surveillance interviews to ensure continuity of communicable disease follow-up.
- When an evening interview is needed to reach a patient with a reportable enteric disease, either at the request of a patient or if a patient has not been reachable during normal business hours.
- During other periods of decreased local capacity when routine enteric disease surveillance activities might be impacted.

To request assistance from the SOS Team, email DHSDPHEnterics@dhs.wisconsin.gov or call 608-267-7143.

