

WOAH Regional Workshop - Accelerating the Operationalisation of the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OHJPA) in Veterinary Services in the European Region

Food borne outbreak - Intersectoral Cooperation in Austria using an example

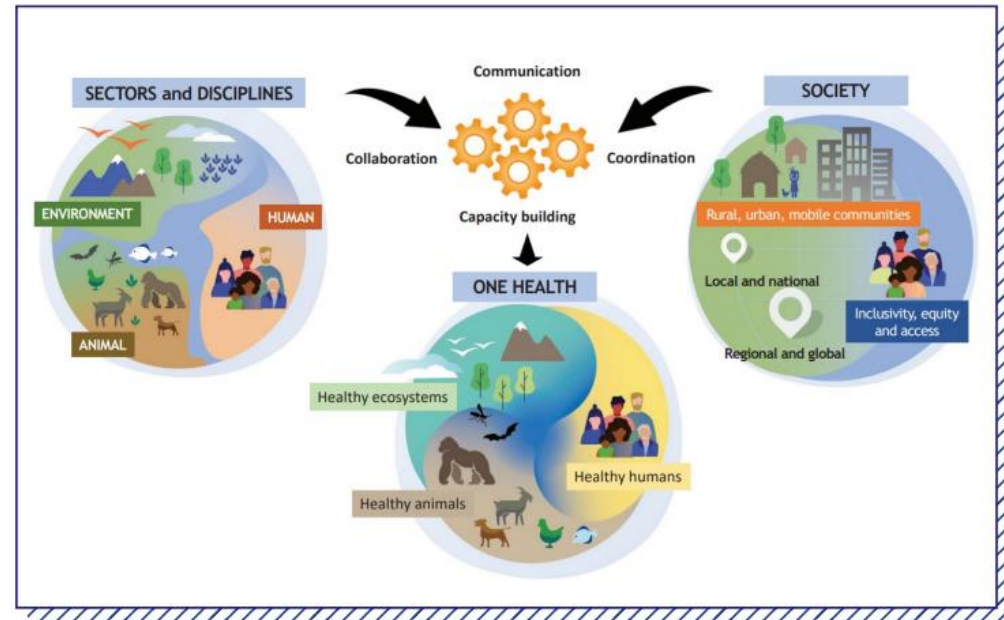
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Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

Vienna, 19.11.2025 (18-20 November 2025 - Athens, Greece)

The One Health Approach

- The need for practical action to put the One Health approach into practice, using the “4Cs”:
 - **communication,**
 - **collaboration,**
 - **coordination,**
 - **and capacity building.**



National Implementation: Austria

- **Zoonoses**
 - **Cooperation between all involved parties on an legal basis**
 - **Human- and Animal-Health, Food Savety, Feed Savety**
 - **On all levels of administration**

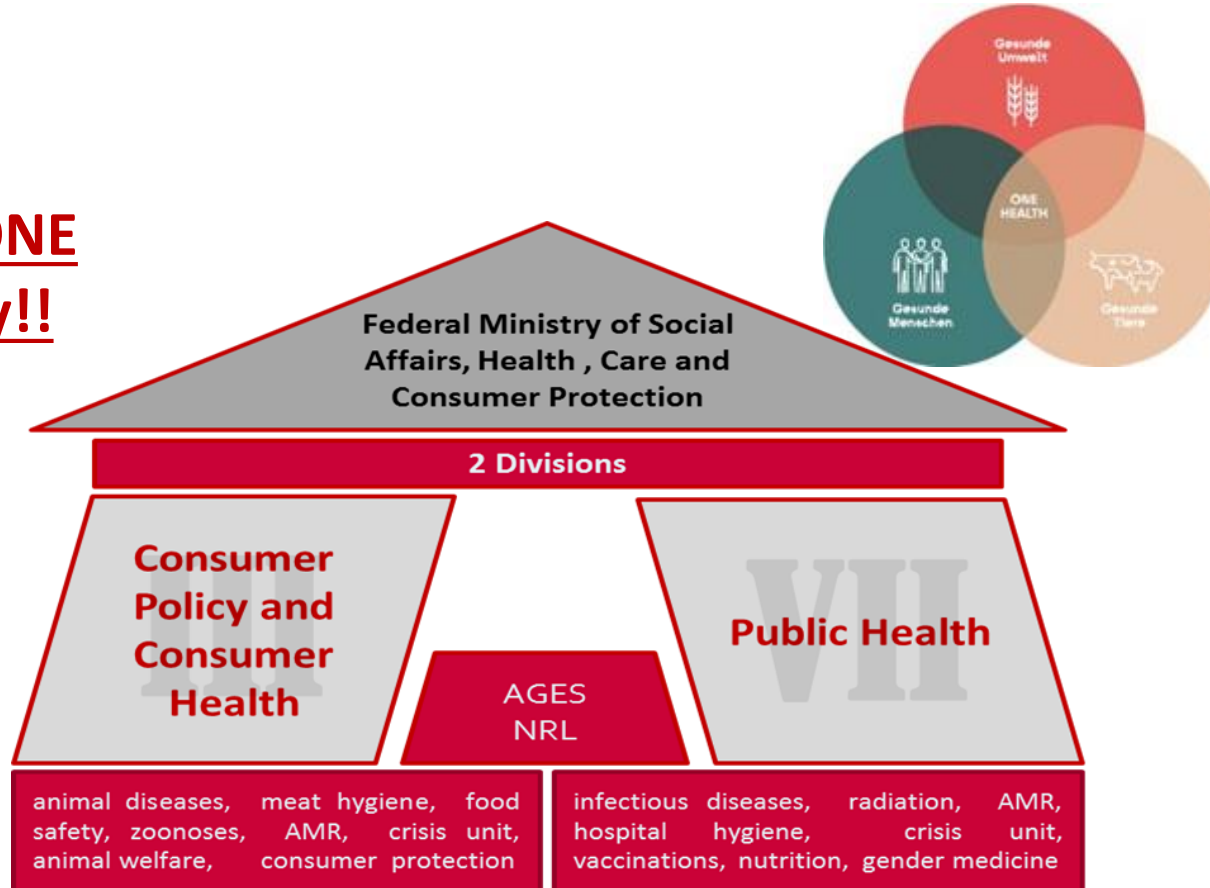
9 Federal Provinces (Federal States) of Austria



Veterinary/Food Safety Administration in Austria

- **Central Veterinary Services/Food Safety Administration** in the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection with **six departments**;
Chief Veterinary Officer is Head of Section (**CVO**)
- **9 Regional Veterinary Services/Food Safety Administrations** in the provinces
coordination by Provincial Veterinary Officer (**PVO**)
- **94 Local Veterinary Services/Food Safety Administrations**, management and
coordination by District Veterinary Officer or Food Inspection officer, (**DVO**)
executive organ, subordinate to PVO
- Veterinary Meat Inspectors, controlled by DVO....

ALL in ONE
Ministry!!



Role of the Ministry

- Provide national legal basis
- Confer international legal basis and standards
- International notification
- Ensure necessary data base
- International communication
- coordinates measures in case more than one province is affected



World Organisation
for Animal Health



Legal Framework for handling of zoonoses and food borne outbreaks in Austria

- **Zoonoses Act** (“umbrella” – in force since 01.01.2006)
- **Epidemics Act** (human side)
- **Food Safety and Consumer Protection Act**
- **Feed Act** (Federal Ministry resp. for Agriculture)



Zoonoses Act

Regulates:

- the organization of the monitoring/surveillance of zoonoses and zoonotic agents,
- the epidemiological investigation of foodborne outbreaks and
- the exchange of information on zoonoses and zoonotic agents.

Implements:

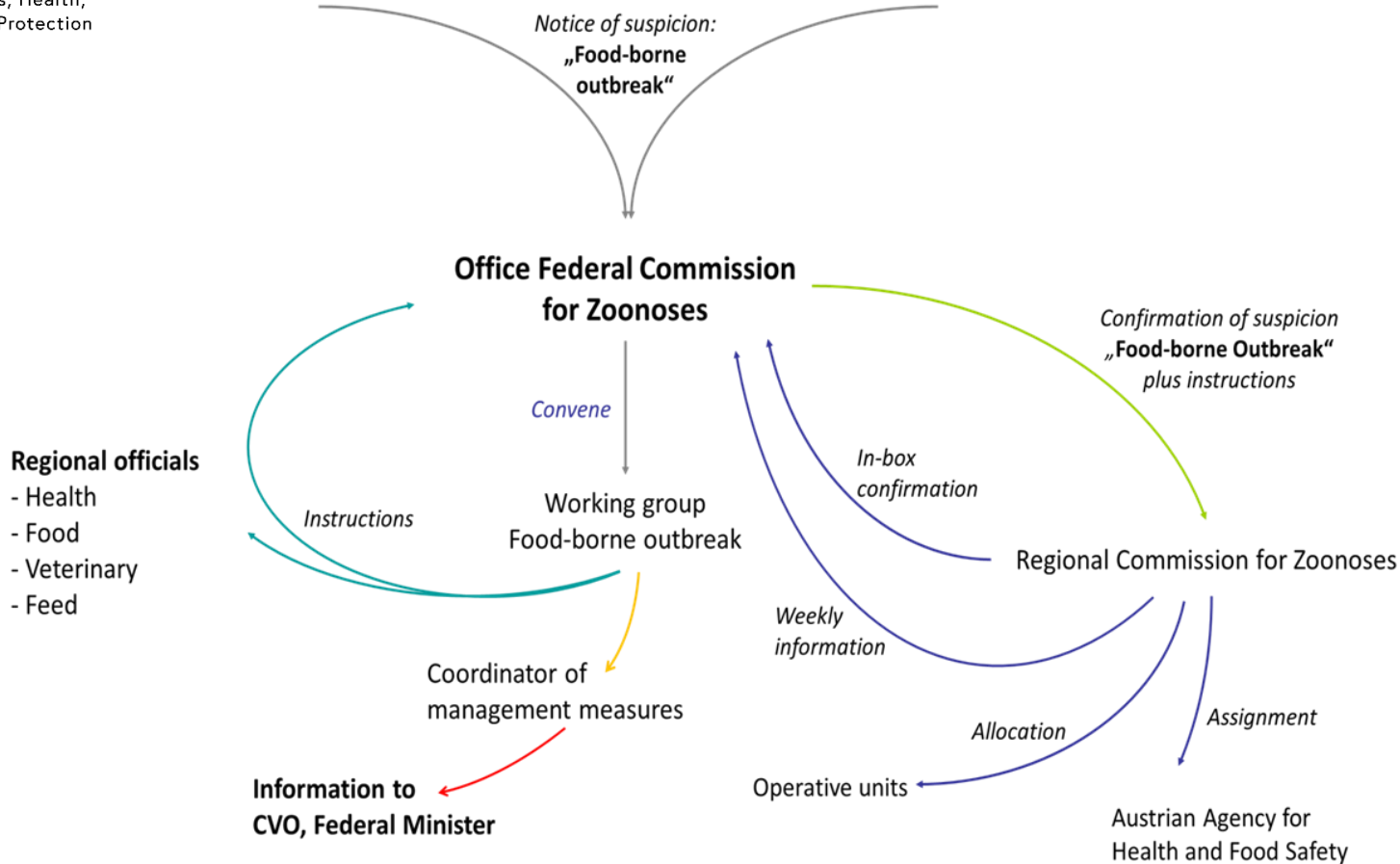
- **Federal Zoonoses Commission**
 - exchange of general information and, if necessary, specific data
 - ensure the effective and continuous cooperation of the work areas concerned
 - in determining the necessary measures and reporting on foodborne disease outbreaks across national borders
- Coordination of zoonosis in the federal states = Governor is responsible
- National Reference Laboratories;
- List of zoonoses and zoonotic agents....

Federal Zoonoses Commission – Members

**Information
exchange
(at least)
2x / year**

- 
- Animal Health: Control + Surveillance (ministry)
 - Veterinary Public Health (ministry)
 - Food affairs (ministry)
 - Public Health (ministry)
 - Feed (ministry)
 - Defense (ministry)
 - Austrian Agency AGES
 - Heads of provincial commissions (9)
 - Provincial Chief Veterinary Director
 - Provincial Chief Sanitary Director
 - Further experts if required (science)

Each member and their deputies have to be appointed by decree from Minister



Epidemics Act

- § 1: Notifiable diseases: Suspicion, morbidity and deaths from ... **infectious hepatitis** (hepatitis **A, B, C, D, E, G**),.... **bacterial and viral food poisoning**, ...
- The responsible Federal Minister for Health has an **electronic register in form of an information network system**
- Special provisions relating to zoonoses: **Laboratories that diagnose zoonotic agents...**, have to send the corresponding isolates to the competent national reference laboratory for further examination
- If there is a **spatially and temporally frequent occurrence** of zoonotic agents in a federal state (9) or regions the **NRLs** are **obliged to report immediately**

Food Safety and Consumer Protection “Austrian Speciality”

- Duties of “food business operators”



BENEFIT „ALL IN ONE NRL“

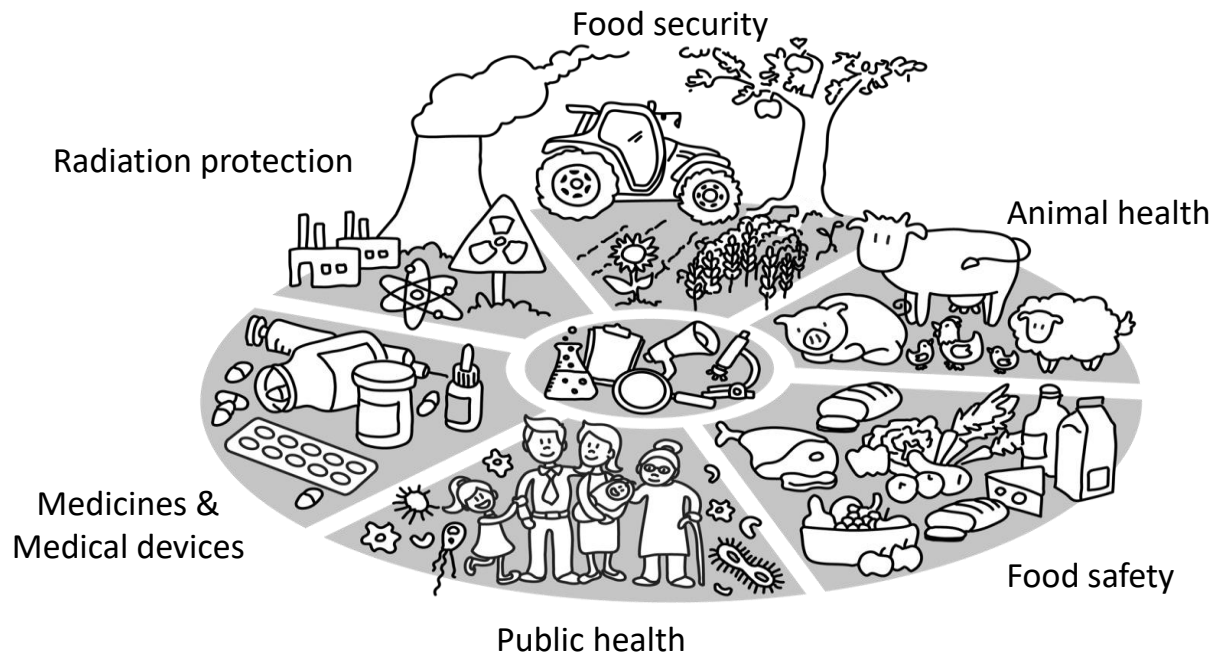
- All samples are known (human/food)
- Easy comparison
- Investigations can start immediatly

- If “food business operator” does not fulfill the obligation:

- Laboratories which investigate the presence of zoonoses / zoonotic agents shall **immediately**, but **no later than 2 days**, send **isolates to the NRL** (anonymized - with reference to product group).

Agency for Health and Food Safety - AGES

stands for protecting the health of humans, animals, plants and soil and for food security.“



LOCATIONS



Vienna

Possingergasse 38, 1160 Vienna
Spargelfeldstr. 191, 1220 Vienna
Traisengasse 5, 1200 Vienna
Währinger Str. 25a, 1096 Vienna

Linz

Wieningerstr. 8, 4020 Linz

Mödling

Robert-Koch-Gasse 17
2340 Mödling

Innsbruck

Technikerstr. 70, 6020 Innsbruck

Salzburg

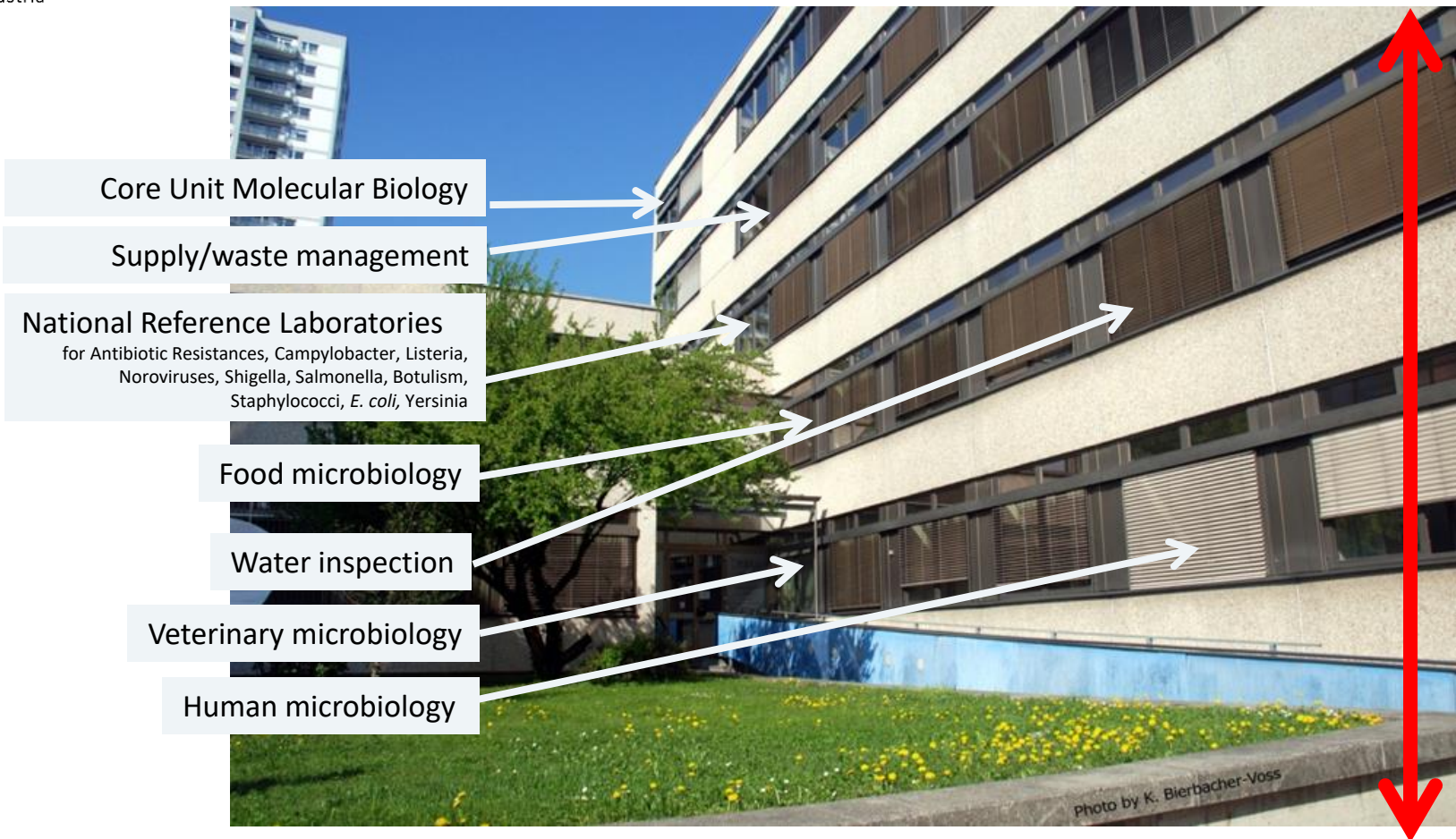
Innsbrucker Bundesstraße 47
5020 Salzburg

Graz

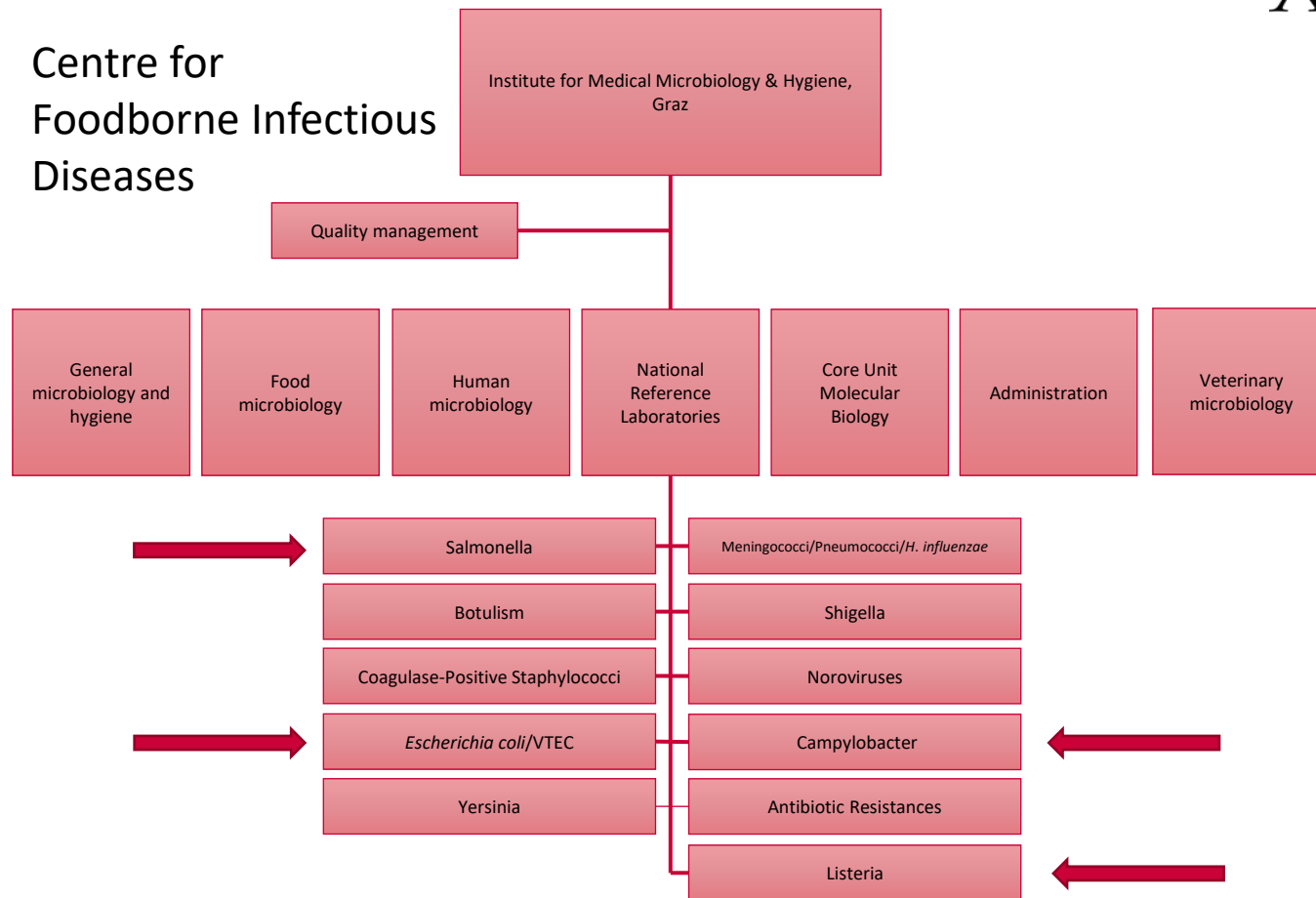
Beethovenstr. 6, 8010 Graz
Zinzendorfsg. 27/2, 8010 Graz

Centre for Foodborne Infectious Diseases

0,015km



Centre for Foodborne Infectious Diseases



Cross-State Foodborne Disease Outbreak – „03 2025 *Salmonella Enteritidis* Styria

Outbreak Management Austria

13.05.2025 – 05.11.2025

Example of an Outbreak Investigation with Task Force Structures in Austria - Start

Transmission of the suspicion-report on a foodborne disease outbreak across Austria that was triggered by *Salmonella Enteritidis* to the Federal Ministry:

- On May 12, 2025, AGES reported a **suspected case of a foodborne outbreak** caused by ***Salmonella Enteritidis*** to the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Consumer Protection (BMASGPK).
- From December 2024 to April 2025, the National Reference Center for Salmonella (NRZS)/AGES registered **six cases** of infection with ***Salmonella enterica* subsp. *enterica* serovar *Enteritidis* (*S. Enteritidis*) SequenceType (ST) 11 ComplexType (CT) 14117**

- If a suspected case of a food borne outbreak exists, predetermined steps must be followed due to legal or internal requirements
 - in order to ensure that nothing is forgotten during the investigation,
 - that all persons involved are informed of the current status of the investigation, and
 - that the investigation is carried out as quickly as possible.

→ **Federal Zoonoses Commission called Task Force into action on 16.05.2025**

- **Case definition:**
 - A confirmed outbreak case is a person (1) residing in Austria, and (2) in whom an infection with *S. Enteritidis*, based on *S. Enteritidis* cgMLST belonging to ST 11 CT 14117, has been detected from 1 December 2024 and whose isolates do not differ by more than 2 alleles.

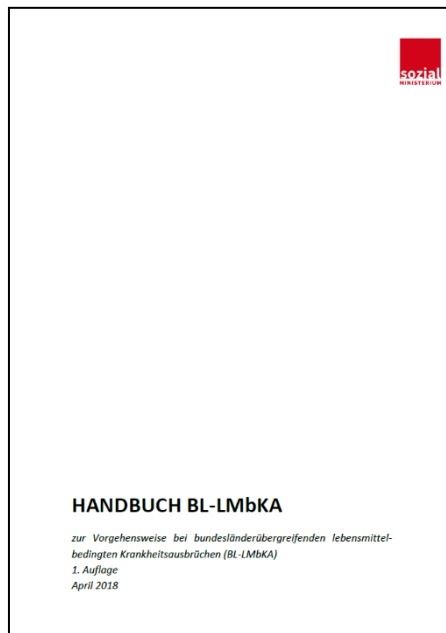
Investigation in suspected cases

- A binding, joint procedure was established by decree to ensure the investigation of suspected or confirmed foodborne illness outbreaks across federal states (regarding Federal Law on Food Safety)
 - guarantees the best possible flow of information.
- This procedure includes, among other things, the following points (examples provided): Reference to the respective legal obligations at the federal and state levels/Hierarchy – Responsibilities/Information on sample collection/framework for commissioning Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety experts to investigate a foodborne illness outbreak/obligations of these experts/guidelines for the preparation of reports (weekly reports, final reports, etc.)/specification of timelines and deadlines for these reports/confidentiality/information flow....

Appointed experts according to ZoonG

- The Federal Minister may appoint members of the Federal Commission for Zoonoses or **other experts to investigate zoonotic outbreaks**.
- These experts are authorized, in the event of zoonotic outbreaks affecting multiple federal states, to **inspect all relevant documents, make copies of them, and contact patients and food companies directly**, insofar as this is necessary to prepare for the investigation of the outbreak, while maintaining official confidentiality and complying with all data protection requirements.

Example of an Outbreak Investigation with Task Force Structures in Austria



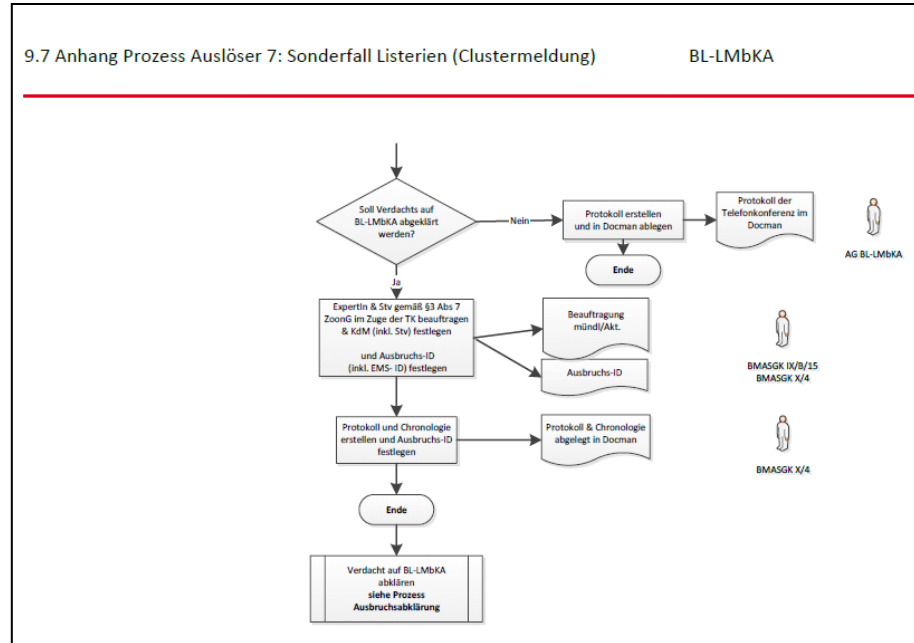
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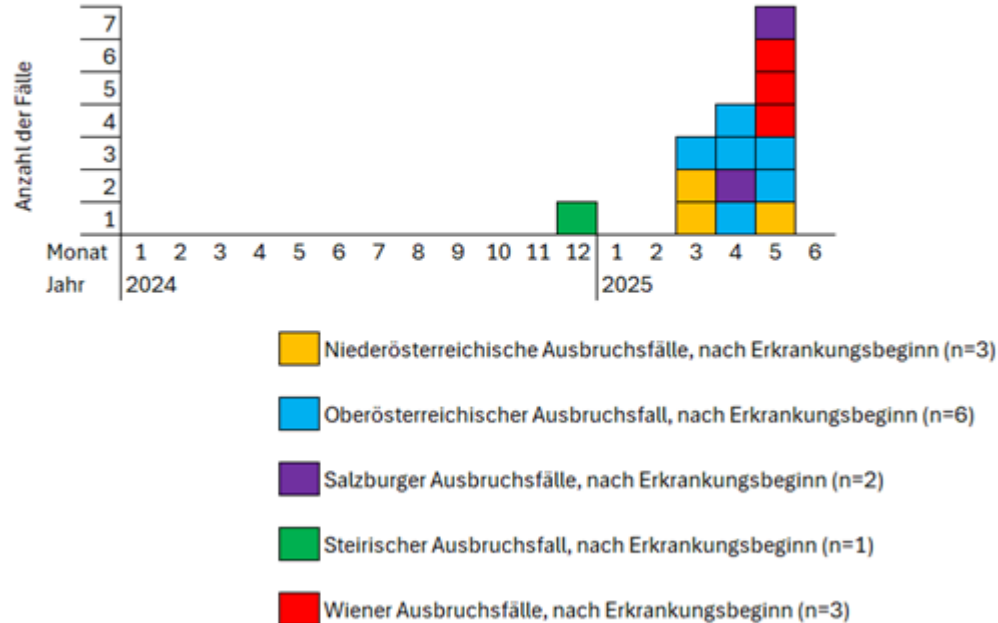


Outbreak Investigation Steps II

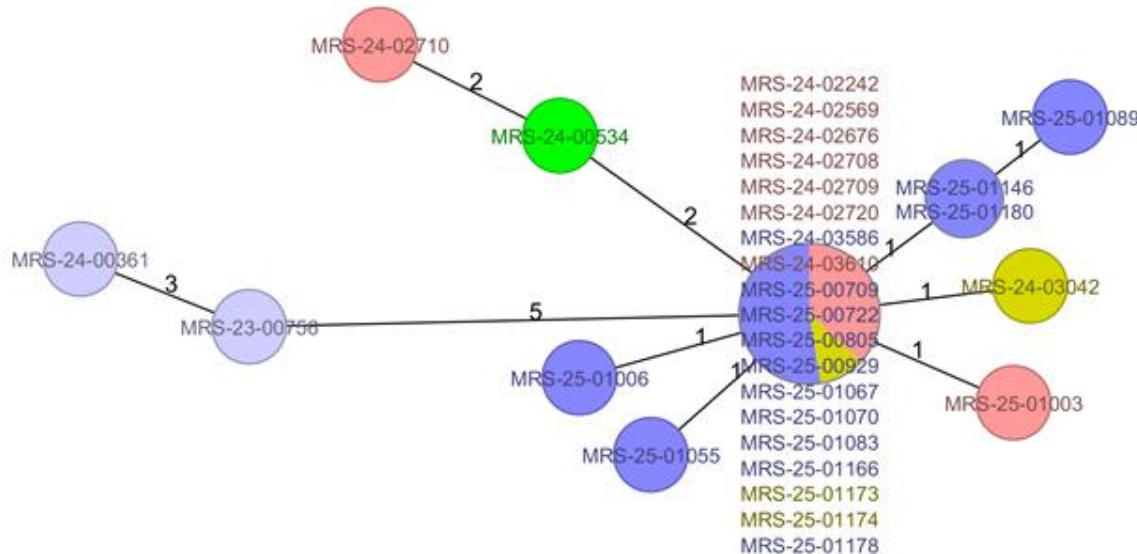


Human Cases at the beginning (22.05.2025)

Abbildung 1: *Salmonella* Enteritidis ST 11 CT 14117 Ausbruchsfälle (n = 15) nach Monat und Bundesland des Wohnorts, Österreich, 2024-2025. Datenstand: 22.05.2025



1. Minimum spanning tree (at the beginning)

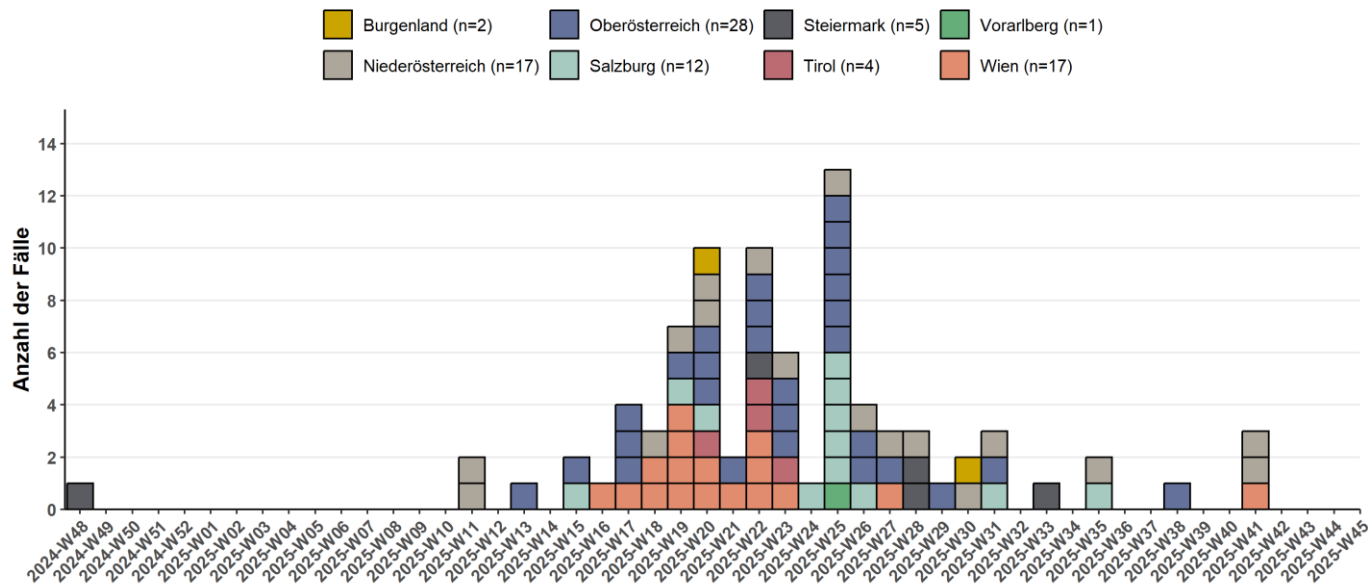


- 17 human isolates are shown in purple, of which 15 confirmed outbreak cases are shown in dark purple. The isolate from case 2 (onset of illness in March 2025) was used as the reference strain. The two cases not included in the cluster are shown in light purple.
- Furthermore, 14 isolates from veterinary samples from animal farms are shown in red.
- One food isolate is shown in green.
- Three olive-green isolates were classified as environmental isolates.

Meanwhile

- 24. weekly reports
- more than 13 videoconferences with federal states, AGES – human-, veterinarian- and feedstuff side
- thousands of hours of research
- Exploratory interviews with the patients
- On site inspections
- EPI-PULSE reports

Human Cases (86, 05.11.2025)



Institut für Surveillance und Infektionsepidemiologie (AGES)

Shopping habits

Federal State	Exposure to purchasing behavior	Retail: Billa, Billa Plus	Retail: Hofer	Retail: Spar, Eurospar, Interspar	Retail: Penny	Retail: Lidl
Stmk	Fall 1	X	X	X		X
NÖ	Fall 2	X	X	X		
NÖ	Fall 3	X	X	X		
S	Fall 6	X	X	X		
OÖ	Fall 7	X	X	X		
OÖ	Fall 9	X	X	X		X
NÖ	Fall 10	X	X		X	
OÖ	Fall 12	X	X	X		X
OÖ	Fall 17	X		X		
NÖ	Fall 18			X		
W	Fall 20	X	X			
W	Fall 22			X	X	
S	Fall 31	X		X		
NÖ	Fall 37	X		X	X	X
W	Fall 38	X		X	X	
OÖ	Fall 39		X			X
OÖ	Fall 40	X	X	X		
OÖ	Fall 43	X	X	X		X
Stmk	Fall 46	X		X		
OÖ	Fall 42		X	X	X	
OÖ	Fall 50				X	
OÖ	Fall 53	X		X		X
S	Fall 54		X	X	X	X
OÖ	Fall 56	X	X	X		X
OÖ	Fall 60			X		
S	Fall 61	X	X	X		
OÖ	Fall 74	X		X		
NÖ	Fall 82				X	X
OÖ	Fall 83	X		X		
NÖ	Fall 84	X	X	X		X
NÖ	Fall 85	X		X		X
	Total Cases n = 31	23	17	25	8	12

Probable source of the outbreak

- Several laying hen flocks and halls at various locations of one single company
 - Measures
 - marketing bans
 - in some cases, slaughter of the flock
- Further positive clusters emerged during the course of the investigation in other regions.
 - all herds that tested positive should have been slaughtered by now.
- We hope that no new human cases will emerge.

Further Information - Chronology (>40 pages)

Formblatt für Berichte von bundesländerübergreifenden lebensmittelbedingten Krankheitsausbrüchen an den Vorsitzenden der Bundeszoonosekommission, E-Mail: forian.fellinger@bmg.gv.at, bkzoon@bmg.gv.at und Ablage im DOCMAN

Wochenbericht zu einem bundesländerübergreifenden, lebensmittelbedingten Krankheitsausbruch (BL-LmbKA)

BMASGK-Ausbruch-ID: **1/2018/Listeria monocytogenes Serogruppe II/CT1234/Wien** Datum: **01.07.2018**

Für das Bundesland/die Bundesländer:
☐ N¹ ☐ K¹ ☒ NÖ¹ ☐ OÖ¹ ☐ S¹ ☐ ST¹ ☐ T¹ ☐ V¹ ☒ W¹

Für den Bericht verantwortlich:
 Priv. Doz. Dr. med. Daniela Schmid MSc / Sabine Maritschnik MPH, RD
daniela.schmid@ages.at
 AGES, Geschäftsfeld Öffentliche Gesundheit
 1090 Wien, Währingstraße 25a
 Tel. +43 (0) 50555-37304 Mobile: +43 (0) 664 839 80 66

☐ Erster Bericht² ☐ Weiterer wöchentlicher Bericht, fortlaufende Nr.:
☐ Vorläufiger Endbericht³ ☐ Keine neuen Erkenntnisse verglichen mit dem Bericht der Vorwoche⁴
☒ Endbericht FINAL⁴

Lebensmittelbedingter Krankheitsausbruch¹ ☐ Verdächtig ☒ Bestätigt

Beginn der Ausbruchuntersuchung⁵ 26. Januar 2018
Einstellung der Erhebungen⁶ 01. Juli 2018

Allgemeine Beschreibung des Ausbruchs¹⁰

Hintergrund
 Am 25.01.2018, macht die AGES an die BMASGK eine Verdachtsmeldung zu einem BL-LmbKAusbruch, verursacht durch *Listeria (L.) monocytogenes* ClusterType 1234 basierend auf der Typisierungsmethode cgMLST. In Österreich wurde erstmals im Jahr 2015 bei einem Fall von Listeriose dieser Stamm nachgewiesen.
 Von Jänner 2015 bis Jänner 2018 traten insgesamt 7 Fälle einer Infektion mit diesem Stamm, *L. monocytogenes* Sg II/MLST155/CT1234 in den Bundesländern Niederösterreich, Oberösterreich und Wien auf. Diese unterscheiden sich innerhalb des Cluster Typ1234 von einander mit 0-2 Allelen (i.e. CT1234_AT complex).
 In der Telefonkonferenz mit der AG-LmbKA am 26.01.2018 wurde die Abt. Surveillance/ Infektionsepidemiologie (Dr. Schmidt/S. Maritschnik) der AGES mündlich beauftragt, den BL-LmbKA, verursacht durch *L. monocytogenes* Sg II/MLST155/CT1234 zu untersuchen. Dieser mündlichen Beauftragung folgte am 29.1.2018 die schriftliche Ausfertigung.

Verursachendes Agens¹¹ ☒ verdächtig ☐ bestätigt
L. monocytogenes Sg II/MLST155/CT1234

Ausbruchsfaldefinition¹²

Die Ausbruchsfaldefinition ist mit der EU Faldefinition akkordiert
 A confirmed outbreak case:
 is defined as a laboratory-confirmed invasive listeriosis due to *L. monocytogenes* serogroup (Sg) II (i.e. 1/2a) in a patient with symptoms onset on or after 1 January 2015 AND
 Fulfilling the additional laboratory criterion: with *Listeria monocytogenes* having <2 cgMLST allelic differences from the human isolate AT MRL-15-01329 based on cgMLST analysis, equal to outbreak strain, *L. monocytogenes* Sg II/MLST155/CT1234 (assembly uploaded to EPI-400 as WGS_MRL-15-01329.fasta). The cgMLST scheme is either that of Moura et al. (2016), Ruppel et al. (2015) or a respective scheme.
 OR
 Fulfilling the additional laboratory criterion: with *Listeria monocytogenes* within 2 SNP cluster from the human isolate AT MRL-15/01329 based on SNP analysis (assembly

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BL-LmbKA 1/2018 – *Listeria monocytogenes* CT1234/Wien

Stand: April 2018

CHRONOLOGIE: BL-LmbKA 1/2018 – *Listeria monocytogenes* CT1234/Wien

Datum:	Meldende Stelle:	Nachricht:
25.01.2018	ALLERBERGER (AGES)	Übermittlung der Verdachtsmeldung über einen bundesländerübergreifenden lebensmittelbedingten Krankheitsausbruch ausgelöst durch <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> CT1234 an das BMASGK. 7 Humanfälle sind seit Jänner 2015 in 3 Bundesländern (NÖ=5; OÖ=1; Wien=1) aufgetreten. Die Fälle sind im Rahmen der Abklärung von 2 Listeriose-Erkrankungen des Jahres 2017 mittels einer neu eingeführten Typisierungsmethode (NGS=Next Generation Sequencing) auffällig geworden.
25.01.2018	ALLERBERGER (AGES)	FWD EPIS-Meldung abgesetzt. "In Austria, we are currently investigating an outbreak of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> IIa. Since 2015 we have seven notified cases clustering on WGS. Patients were 29-97 years old, 5 female and 2 male. Comparison to food isolates revealed that numerous meat products, all produced in one Austrian facility, yielded the outbreak strain (27 positive food/food-environment-samples so far). RASFF notification pending. We would like to know if other countries have seen cases, that could be related to this outbreak."
25.01.2018	BMASGK IX/B/15	Einladung zur 1. Telefonkonferenz am 26. Jänner 2018
25.01.2018	BMASGK IX/B/15	Übermittlung der Verdachtsmeldung über einen BL-LmbKA ausgelöst durch <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> CT1234 an die Arbeitsgruppe BL-LmbKA.
26.01.2018	AG BL-LmbKA	1. Telefonkonferenz der AG-BL-LmbKA zu 1/2018 Es handelt sich um einen BL-LmbKA mit derzeit 7 Humanfällen, alle hospitalisiert, darunter 1 Todesfall mit Listeriose Sepsis. Die Fälle traten seit 2015 überwiegend in Ostösterreich auf. 27 Isolate aus Privatproben mit kaum unterscheidbarem NGS-Muster konnten auf denselben Herstellungsbetrieb zurückgeführt werden - Stefri Frischeteam Halper GmbH, Steinbrücl 21, 7531 Kemetten. Eine amtliche Probe, gezogen von der burgenländischen Behörde am 22.11.2017, hat ein vom Ausbruchstamm CT1234 nicht unterscheidbares LM-Isolat ergeben.

Thank you for your attention!

Florian Fellingner

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