

Module 2: Interviewing Group Exercise: A Potential Sorority/Fraternity Outbreak?

Background for the *INTERVIEWEE*:

It is Monday morning. You call and leave a message with the local health department that you, a student who attends the local University, developed diarrhea, nausea and vomiting late Saturday night. You attended a local pizzeria for dinner with your sorority sisters (or fraternity brothers) one of which is also your roommate. You are absolutely positive that the pizza eaten at the pizzeria is what made you sick.

After dinner at the pizzeria, you and your sisters/ brothers went to the local bar and consumed numerous alcoholic beverages. Both you and your roommate developed nausea, vomiting (which is rather common for you) and diarrhea sometime between 2 and 4 am early Sunday morning. *You also developed fever and chills. You are still feeling sick, which is different than your typical weekend nausea and vomiting.*

A total of seven sisters/ brothers went to the pizzeria (including you). *There are a total of four people ill including you and your roommate. Two more sisters/ brothers became ill last night.*

You have not gone and will not go to the doctor, especially to provide a stool specimen – that's gross. *Your roommate did go to the University clinic. Another sorority sister/ brother is sick and is thinking of going to the clinic. (Maybe you can be talked into submitting a stool specimen if you do not feel better in a day or two.)*

You do not want to provide your sisters'/ brothers' names to the health department. *You would be willing to contact your sister/ brothers and have them contact the LHD.*

All of the sisters/ brothers live on-campus in three different dorms. *You have heard that some other people who live in your dorm are sick with the same symptoms.*

You do not want to provide a 3-day meal history because this is extraneous information and you aren't really motivated initially to try and remember. You feel that identifying the pizzeria (which also provided bad service) is all that the LHD needs to know. *If the interviewer is convincing (cut them some slack) you can be convinced to share that you don't eat breakfast (who gets up in time to eat breakfast?), both you and your roommate like to eat lunch at the on-campus cafeteria (usually at the deli bar), and dinners that week were at various bars around town.*

You feel that the LHD nurse is incompetent and you are too busy to answer questions that are unimportant because you already identified what made you ill.

Elaborate on this scenario as needed to keep the interview flowing. Feel free to be difficult so that the interviewer can be challenged.

Interviewing Group Exercise: A Potential Sorority/Fraternity Outbreak?

Background for the *INTERVIEWER*:

It is Monday morning. You receive a message that a student who attends the local University in your jurisdiction had called with a foodborne complaint. She/he reports that she/he attended a local pizzeria with her/his sorority/fraternity sisters/ brothers Saturday night. Several hours later they developed nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea that lasted throughout the night. Call the student back to collect a case history. You are free to use any tools or interviewing aides that you normally would use to interview this person. Copies of forms are in student handouts.

Interviewing Group Exercise: Interview Evaluation

Were these objectives met?

Establish Rapport

- ☐ Did the interviewer identify themselves and explain why they were calling?
- ☐ Did they explain why the questions they were asking were important?
- ☐ Did the interviewer address last meal bias and explain that pathogens may take days to cause illness?

Purposeful Directed Information Gathering

- ☐ Was the interview structured and “flowing”?
- ☐ Did the interviewer explain that they may need to re-contact the case and did they ask when a good time to call back is?
- ☐ Did the interviewer use a Preliminary Outbreak Investigation Report?
- ☐ Did the Preliminary Outbreak Investigation Report collect the right information to determine whether to proceed with an investigation?
- ☐ What else would you want to ask?

Verify Diagnosis

- ☐ Did the interviewer verify the diagnosis by collecting data about symptoms, onset time, medical care etc.?
- ☐ Did the interviewer refer the student for collection of stool specimens?
- ☐ Did the interviewer ask if leftovers were available?
- ☐ Did the interviewer collect a 3-day meal history?

Search for Additional Cases

- ☐ Did the interviewer ask about additional cases?
- ☐ Did the interviewer ask about other people who attended the events who were not ill?

Look for Person-Place-Time Associations

- ☐ Were person, place, and time association linkages looked for?