



## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

June 25, 2024

Division of Environmental Health Science and Practice  
National Center for Environmental Health  
4770 Buford Highway NE  
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dear DEHSP:

I am writing concerning the recent outbreak of severe illness linked to specific chocolate products containing mushroom edible products. This outbreak includes Arizona and extends to multiple adjacent and non-adjacent states and territories, necessitating a coordinated investigation across multiple states and jurisdictions. It also demands specialized assistance and resources for an adequate response. We seek technical support for case investigation tools and processes relevant to our cases and advocate for multi-state coordination efforts by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), FDA and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE). CSTE is well versed in coordinating with State Epidemiologists, gathering input on case definitions, case questionnaires, data system input, multistate communications and policy issues.

A coordinated multi-state investigation into this outbreak will enable each state, local, and territorial jurisdiction to make swift and effective decisions to prevent and control the public health issue. This unified approach will enhance and expedite the response, unlike separate investigations by each state and jurisdiction, which would result in limited and non-comparable conclusions owing to the small number of cases in each state. We agree to share the findings of our investigation, but each jurisdiction involved in the multi-jurisdictional response will maintain ownership of and responsibility for all data collected within their respective state.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Komatsu, MPH  
State Epidemiologist

Katie Hobbs | Governor

Jennifer Cunico, MC |

Cabinet Executive Officer  
Executive Deputy Director