Health Officer Report 10.26.22

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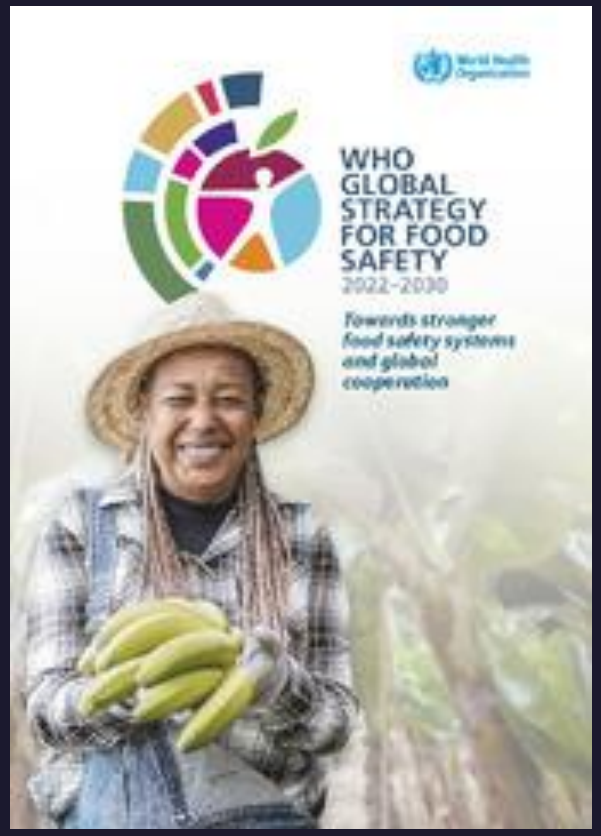
WHO Updates Food Safety Strategy

- Goal of reducing foodborne illness burden 40% by 2030
- Promises to support countries that implement strategy
- WHO data estimates 1:10 people affected by foodborne illness worldwide annually with 420,000 deaths
  - Public health challenge similar to eradicating malaria or HIV/AIDS
- Contaminated food causes > 200 different illnesses
- Kids < 5 years highest risk; 1:6 deaths from diarrhea caused by unsafe food



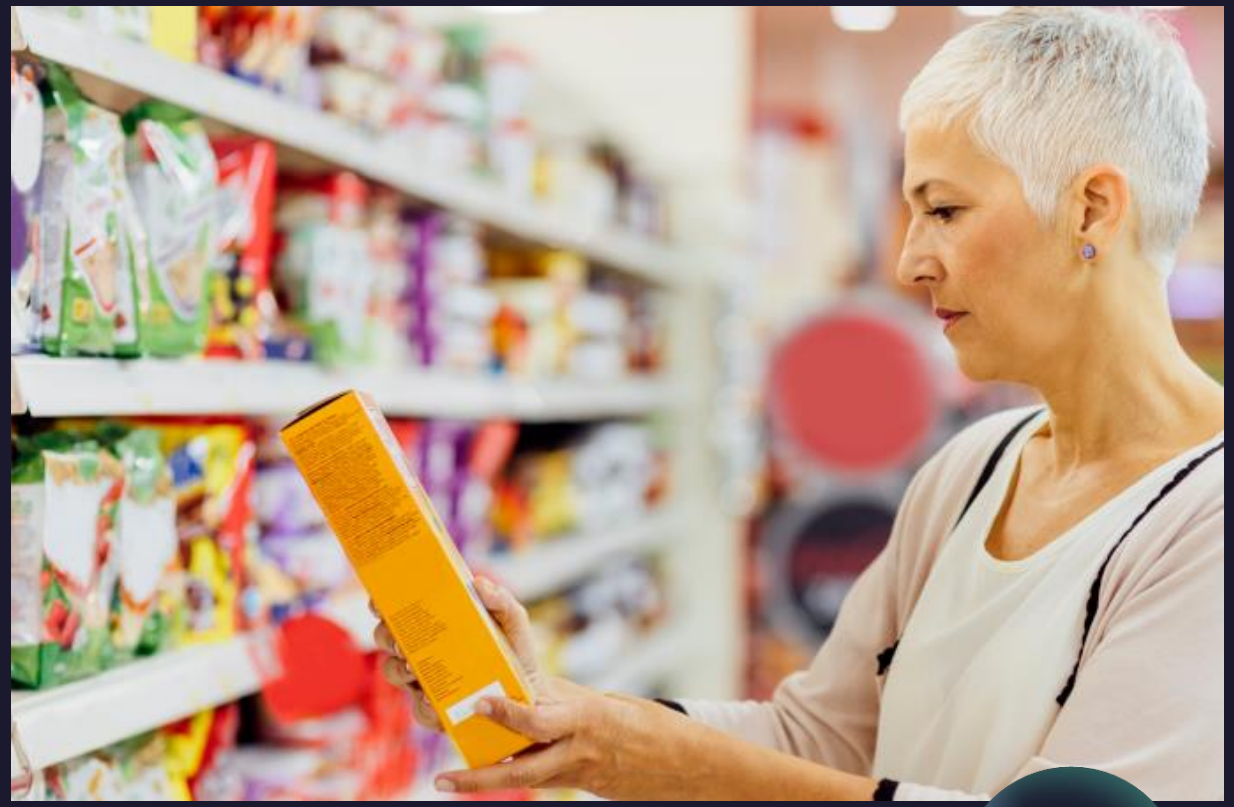
WHO Updates Food Safety Strategy

- Priorities:
  - Strengthen national food control systems
  - Improve food chain information
  - Enhance use of scientific evidence and risk assessment for risk management decisions
  - Promote food safety as essential part of domestic, regional, international trade
- Progress tracked every 2 years until 2030; first report at 2024 World Health Assembly
  - In 2025 and 2030, updated foodborne diarrheal disease estimates per 100,000 population will be published
- Read full report here: [WHO global strategy for food safety 2022-2030: towards stronger food safety systems and global cooperation]

New FDA Guidelines Label Food “Healthy”

- Effort to reduce burden of chronic disease and advance health equity
- To be “healthy,” foods must meet specific nutrient-related criteria and be consistent with current nutrition science and federal dietary guidance

New FDA Guidelines Label Food “Healthy”



- Foods labelled “healthy” must contain a certain amount from at least 1 food group or subgroup (fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy, protein)
- Specific limits for added sugars, saturated fat, sodium based on percentage of Daily Value
- Raw whole fruits/vegetables automatically qualify due to nutrient profile and positive contribution to overall healthy diet

Why Important?

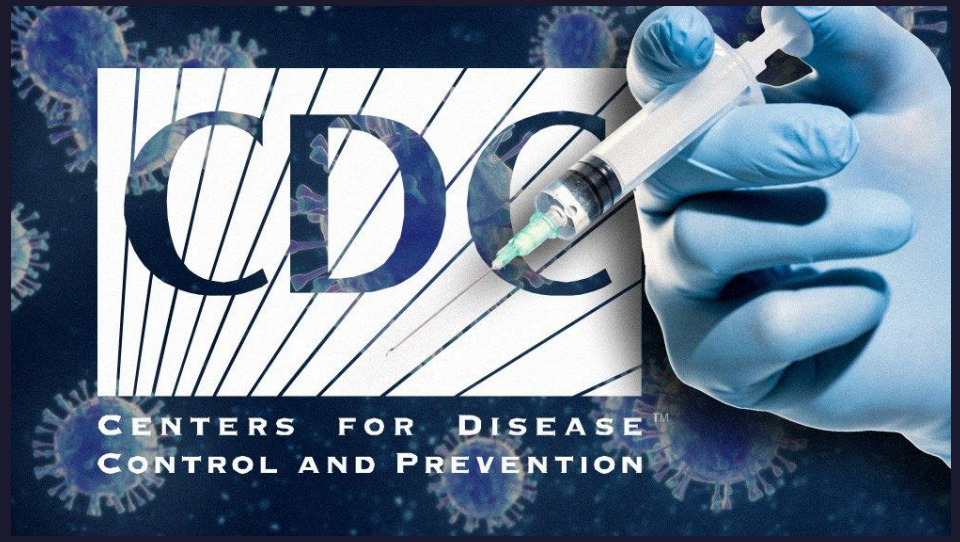
CDC data estimates: 6:10 Americans have chronic lifestyle-related disease

- Often from poor diet and obesity
- Leading cause of death and disability
- Leading driver in $4.1 trillion annual health care costs in U.S.

Obesity epidemic worsening

- Multiple studies showing obesity, particularly among children, increased significantly during COVID-19 pandemic
- During pandemic, 5- to 11-year-olds gained an average of > 5 lbs
- Pre COVID 5-11 obesity rate 36%; post COVID 45.7%

CDC Updates Vaccine Schedule



- **ACIP, CDC advisory panel, met and discussed:**
  - **Ensuring access to free COVID-19 vaccines for children**
    - COVID-19 added to list of vaccines children can receive at not cost, similar to all other childhood immunizations
  - **Updating list of recommended routine immunizations**
    - Infectious disease and public health experts meet annually and decide which vaccines to include in recommended schedules
    - This year, COVID-19 vaccine was added
    - This does not mean it is required for school or daycare entry
    - CDC does not mandate that school children receive immunizations; these requirements are determined at state or jurisdiction level

Rising Rates of Respiratory Syncytial Virus

CDC Data:

Surveillance Findings

Each year in the United States, RSV leads to approximately:

- 2.1 million outpatient (non-hospitalization) visits among children younger than 5 years old.[1]
- 58,000 hospitalizations among children younger than 5 years old.[2]
- 177,000 hospitalizations among adults 65 years and older.[3]
- 14,000 deaths among adults 65 years and older.[3]
- 100–300 deaths in children younger than 5 years old.[4]

- U.S. experiencing unseasonably high levels of RSV in kids
- Many parts of the country seeing hundreds of cases per day leading to overflow pediatric hospital admissions
- "Immune debt" from 2 years of distance learning, closed childcare facilities, masking, social distancing where children weren't exposed to common respiratory illnesses may be playing a part
  - Pre-pandemic, nearly all U.S. children typically contracted RSV prior to the 2nd birthday
- While cases rising in N.D., current positivity rates and total #s remain average compared to other years

References

- Use of the Term Healthy on Food Labeling | FDA
- Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025 and Online Materials | Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- ACIP Immunization Schedule Vote | CDC Online Newsroom | CDC
- ACIP COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations | CDC
- News Scan for Oct 25, 2022 | CIDRAP (umn.edu)
- RSV Trends and Surveillance | CDC