

*Campylobacter* Risk Management Strategy  
2017-2020

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**Ministry for Primary Industries**  
Manatū Ahu Matua



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# 1 Background

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), is the government organisation responsible for New Zealand's Food Safety System. The New Zealand Food Safety System extends from 'farm to fork', allowing consumers in New Zealand and around the world to buy and consume our products with confidence that they are safe and suitable.

The *Campylobacter* Risk Management Strategy 2017-2020 sets out MPI's goal, approach and objectives.

MPI's *Campylobacter* Risk Management Strategy has been in existence since 2006. Historically, New Zealand has had some of the highest notified rates of foodborne campylobacteriosis in the world. New Zealand's notified rate of human campylobacteriosis cases for 2014 was 150.3 per 100,000 population. Of this total, 63.8% is estimated to be foodborne transmission.

The MPI *Campylobacter* Risk Management Strategy achieved more than a 50% reduction in foodborne campylobacteriosis cases from 2007-2012. This included a considerable decrease in human cases attributable to poultry meat consumption however recent estimates<sup>1</sup> have attributed an increase in human cases to sources other than poultry. In recent years, progress in reducing foodborne campylobacteriosis has plateaued. Notwithstanding recent success, New Zealand still has some of the highest notified rates of foodborne campylobacteriosis in the world.

## 2 The Goal

MPI's goal is to implement a *Campylobacter* Risk Management Strategy that results in continuous reduction in the incidence of foodborne campylobacteriosis.

MPI has endorsed two Key Performance Indicators to drive improvement toward this goal:

1. Key Performance Indicator 1: The number of human cases of foodborne campylobacteriosis reduced by 10% from 88.4 to 79.6 per 100,000 per head of population by the end of 2020.
2. Key Performance Indicator 2: The number of broiler processing premises (standard throughput) with more than 30% of NMD carcass rise samples positive for *Campylobacter* reduced from 3 to 0 by the end of 2017.

## 3 Approach

The approach toward delivering the *Campylobacter* Risk Management Strategy is to:

1. Apply the MPI Risk Management Framework (RMF) in a systematic and inclusive manner to reduce the incidence of foodborne campylobacteriosis

<sup>1</sup> 2014 data

2. Commission and take up high-quality science as the evidence base for risk management decisions
3. Effectively engage with all stakeholders in promoting a robust food safety culture and reaching a consensus on the effectiveness and practicality of regulatory decisions
4. Continue to use risk assessment/risk modelling to predict human health outcomes and the relative effectiveness of different control measures
5. Actively engage other agencies with a stake in the management of *Campylobacter*. In particular, these include the Ministry of Health and Worksafe New Zealand.

## 4 Objectives

1. Continue to implement the *Campylobacter* Risk Management Strategy and achieve a significant decrease in the incidence of foodborne campylobacteriosis over the next five years
2. Identify, validate and implement effective regulatory control measures at appropriate steps throughout food chains
3. Support a robust science and risk assessment programme that will underpin new regulatory and non-regulatory control measures
4. Fully engage with key domestic stakeholders and ensure that regulatory control measures are practical and achievable in commercial settings
5. Maintain relationships with international agencies to ensure our pathogen strategy and work plan takes into account new scientific knowledge and international regulatory risk management
6. Engage with the Food Safety Governance Board in their stewardship of the food safety system, the setting of public health goals and the establishment of key performance indicators
7. Work with the Ministry of Health and other government agencies to develop and implement a One Health type of approach to control of campylobacteriosis.

## 5 Governance and Management

The Strategy will be managed and implemented by the *Campylobacter* Risk Management Strategy Working group, chaired by the Principal Adviser Risk Management. The working group reports through the Director Systems Audit, Assurance and Monitoring to the Deputy Director-General, Regulation and Assurance, and the Food Safety Governance Board.

## 6 Work programme

The MPI work programme is the vehicle by which the objectives of the Strategy will be achieved. It is outlined in Appendix 1.

