



AUTUMN TRIMESTER ASSESSMENT – 2020/2021

ENVB 30110

Food Microbiology

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Instructions for Candidates

Answer the essay question appearing on the next page.

Word Count: Maximum 1200

12-point text in Times New Roman or Calibri

1.5 line spacing

The essay must cite the source of the information provided and include a bibliography (not part of the word count).

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Twenty four cases of suspected food-borne illness have been reported in your local area. Patients' symptoms include diarrhoea, cramping abdominal pain and fever. Some patients have reported nausea and vomiting. Most cases appear self-limiting with patients reporting improvements in their symptoms after 5-7 days, but one patient is currently hospitalised with haemolytic uremic syndrome. All patients were asked to complete a food survey. Sixteen reported eating roast chicken which had been bought pre-cooked and packaged from a local supermarket. The remaining individuals all attended a function where roast chicken sandwiches were served. Upon investigation, it was affirmed that the chicken served at this function had also been bought from the local supermarket.

Identify the probable causative microbial agent of this foodborne illness outbreak, giving reasons for your answer (cross reference symptoms and likelihood of chosen microbe being in food consumed by patients i.e. give symptoms caused by microbe and reservoirs). Describe the pathogen's characteristics, mechanism of infection, any serious illnesses or complications which can follow infection, treatments available and how to control against a reoccurrence of this outbreak.

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