



# CASE STUDY

FOOD SAFETY

**BY TOXLEARN4EU**  
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## Problem Based Learning (PBL)

### WP5 – Risk assessment, policy and risk communication

**Topic:** CASE on Food safety

#### MacDeath?

### Nearly 50 illnesses, 1 death caused by E. coli outbreak linked to McDonald's Quarter Pounders

News

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U.S. health officials are investigating a multi-state outbreak of bacterial infections that has been linked to McDonald's Quarter Pounders.



Cases of infections often reach the news, intended to warn people. This may involve microbiological contamination of food. Complaints as a result of bacterial infections often go away on their own, but serious complications can also occur, sometimes resulting in death. See the recent example of an E.coli contamination at McDonalds. How did it become clear that the contaminated burgers led to this death? Obviously, there are people and agencies responsible for our food safety that take measures to control risks, but still it remains difficult to trace the source of an infection.

This continuous vigilance seems necessary, because it is not only bacteria that pose a risk...what about viruses such as the Noro-virus leading to symptoms such as diarrhea and vomiting? It causes most foodborne illnesses acquired in the United States and occasionally leads to death in susceptible subjects. You probably also heard about BSE (mad cow disease, induced by prions, a proteinaceous infective particle), and exposure to fungi due to molded food?