

The Outbreak

CASE STUDY

Duration: 35 min • Grades 6–8 • Facilitator-led

Overview

A story-driven investigation where teams review interviews, shipping maps, and matching bacterial samples to identify the origin of a mock outbreak — safely and age-appropriately.

Learning Objectives

- Use evidence to build a chain of reasoning
- Understand the role of labs in public health
- Explore biotech and food-science careers

Materials Needed

- Investigation packet (printable)
- Shared classroom map
- Team whiteboard or chart paper

Facilitator Flow

- 1 Brief (5 min): read the outbreak alert.
- 2 Interview evidence (10 min): review five patient interviews.
- 3 Shipping map (10 min): trace shared suppliers.
- 4 Match samples (5 min): compare simplified DNA barcodes.
- 5 Report out (5 min): each team names the source with evidence.

Want the full activity + facilitator guide?

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