



U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Virtual Public Meeting
Food Allergen Thresholds and Their Potential Applications

February 18, 2026
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET

AGENDA

10:45AM	<i><u>Event Link Live for Participant Login</u></i>
11:00AM	<u>Welcome and Meeting Overview</u> Dianne Benjamin, MS, RD, LDN, <i>Policy Analyst, Office of Nutrition and Food Labeling (ONFL), Nutrition Center of Excellence (NCE), Human Foods Program (HFP), FDA</i>
11:05AM	<u>Opening Remarks</u> Kyle Diamantas, JD, <i>Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods, FDA</i>
11:10AM	<u>Overview of FDA's Major Food Allergen Requirements</u> Lynn Szybist, MS, <i>Director, Division of Food Labeling and Standards, ONFL, NCE, HFP, FDA</i> Ben Warren, PhD, <i>Senior Science Advisor for Food Safety, Office of Microbiological Food Safety, HFP, FDA</i> Yinqing Ma, PhD, <i>Acting Deputy Director, Office of Compliance Operations and Implementation (OCOI), Office of Compliance and Enforcement (OCE), HFP, FDA</i>
11:30AM	<u>Food Allergen Risk and Threshold Considerations</u> Stefano Luccioli, MD, <i>Senior Physician/Allergen Coordinator, Division of Chemical Contaminants, Office of Post-Market Assessment, Office of Food Chemical Safety, Dietary Supplements, and Innovation, HFP, FDA</i>
11:45AM	<u>Codex Alimentarius Commission's Approach to Global Food Allergen Management</u> Douglas Balentine, PhD, <i>Senior Science Advisor for Global Affairs, NCE, HFP, FDA</i>
11:50AM	<u>Historical Perspective on Establishment of Risk-Based Food Allergen Thresholds</u> Steve Taylor, PhD, <i>Professor Emeritus and Founding Director; Food Allergy Research & Resource Program (FARRP), University of Nebraska-Lincoln</i>
12:10PM	BREAK

12:20PM

The Concept of Risk-Based Food Allergen Thresholds

Moderator:

Stefano Luccioli, MD, *Senior Physician/Allergen Coordinator, Division of Chemical Contaminants, Office of Post-Market Assessment, Office of Food Chemical Safety, Dietary Supplements, and Innovation, HFP, FDA*

Panelists:

Steven M. Gendel, PhD, *Consultant, Gendel Food Safety, LLC*

Joseph L. Baumert, PhD, *Professor of Food Science and Director of the Food Allergy Research & Resource Program (FARRP), University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Neil Buck, PhD, *Food Operators: Challenges & Opportunities, General Mills, Inc.*

Wayne G. Shreffler, MD, PhD, *Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital Food Allergy Center*

Brian Vickery, MD, *Professor of Pediatrics, Marcus Professor of Pediatric Immunology and Chief of the Division of Allergy/Immunology at Emory University and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta*

Caroline Moassessi, *Vice President of Community Relations, Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Connection Team (FAACT)*

1:25PM

BREAK

1:35PM

Risk Communication and Labeling

Moderator:

Yinqing Ma, PhD, *Acting Deputy Director, Office of Compliance Operations and Implementation, Office of Compliance and Enforcement, HFP, FDA*

Panelists:

Ruchi Gupta, MD, MPH, *Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine; Clinical Attending, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago Director, Center for Food Allergy & Asthma Research (CFAAR)*

Robert Earl, MPH, RDN, FAND, *Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE)*

Linda Verrill, PhD, *Branch Chief, Behavioral and Social Sciences Branch, Division of Evaluation & Population Health Sciences, Office of Surveillance Strategy and Risk Prioritization, HFP, FDA*

Kevin Boyd, PhD, DABT, *Senior Manager, Regulatory, The Hershey Company*

Sarah Sorscher, JD, MPH, *Director of Regulatory Affairs, Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI)*

Mike Abbott, *Section Head of the Food Biomolecules Section, Food and Nutrition Directorate, Health Canada*

Scott Sicherer, MD, *Professor of Pediatrics, Director, Elliot and Roslyn Jaffe Food Allergy Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York*

2:35PM

BREAK

2:45PM

Potential Applications

Moderator: Lauren Jackson, PhD, *Chief, Chemistry & Process Engineering Branch, Division of Food Processing Science & Technology, Office of Applied Microbiology and Technology, Office of Laboratory Operations and Applied Science, HFP, FDA*

Panelists:

Scott Hegenbart, *Manager of Regulatory Affairs, Conagra Brands, Inc.*

Melanie Downs, PhD, *Associate Professor, Food Allergy Research & Resource Program (FARRP), University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Nathan Mirdamadi, MS, MBA, *Global Director of Sanitation, Kerry*

Rasma Zvaners, *Vice President, Government Relations, American Bakers Association*

Laura Shumow, MS, *Executive Director, American Spice Trade Association*

Benjamin C. Remington, PhD, *Senior Scientist, FDA Contractor*

Matthew Greenhawt, MD, MBA, MSc, *(Chief Medical Officer, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA)), Washington DC*

3:45PM

Wrap-up

Dianne Benjamin, MS, RD, LDN, *Policy Analyst, NFL, NCE, HFP, FDA*

4:00PM

ADJOURN