

4-Hers conduct a Germ Scene Investigation at the 4-H Annual Conference Organized by the ISU Hospitality Management Program in Collaboration with CHS Extension and Outreach

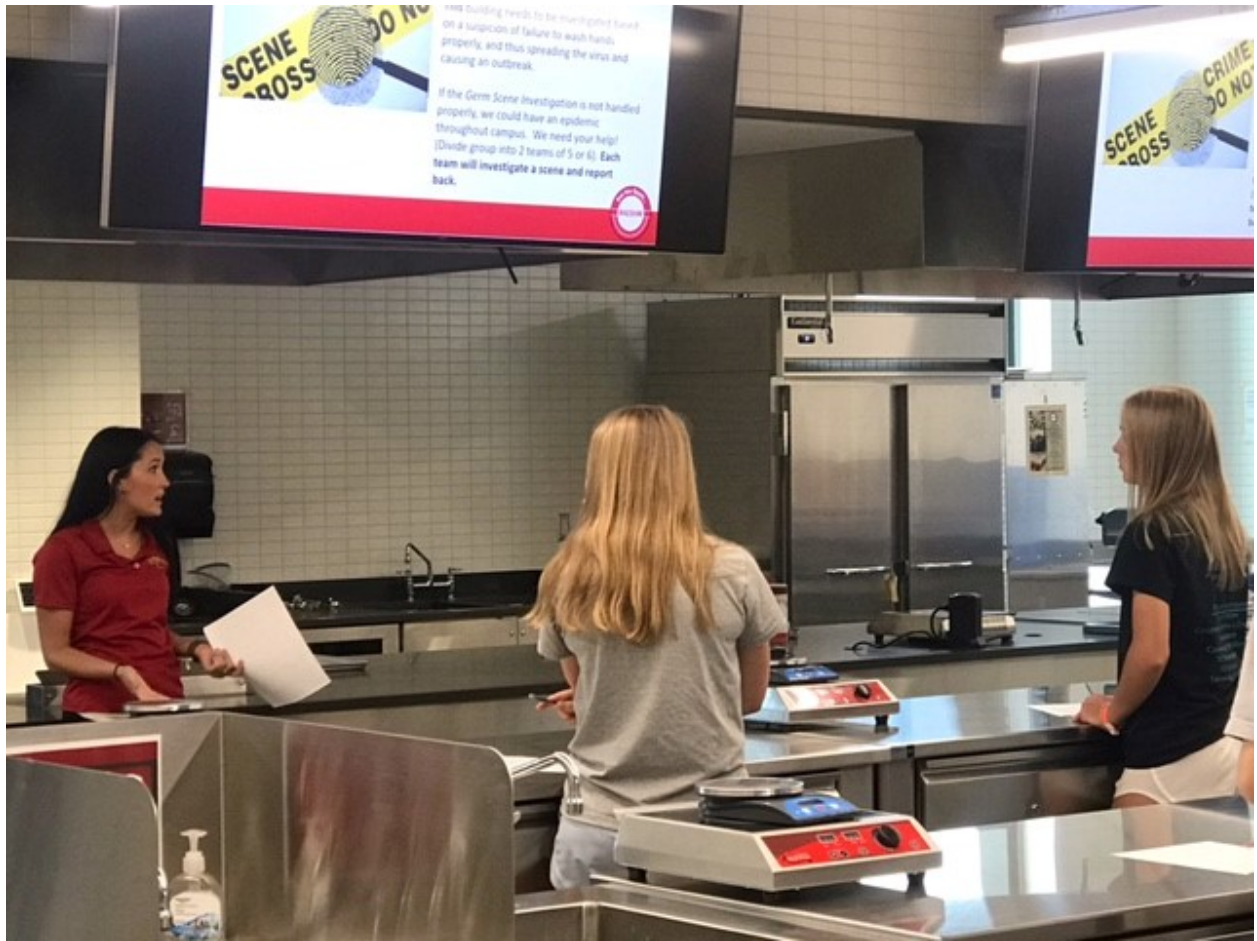
Iowa 4-Hers attending the Annual Conference on Iowa State University campus donned their detective hats and investigated a reported Norovirus outbreak in the Student Innovation Center building. This Germ Scene Investigation (GSI) was led by HSPM faculty Kathrine Ginapp, Assistant Teaching Professor; Anirudh Naig, Associate Professor in Hospitality Management and State Retail Food Safety Extension Specialist; Eunha (Lena) Jeong, Assistant Professor in Hospitality Management; and HSPM doctoral student David Johnson. Students met at the demonstration kitchen in the Student Innovation Center and were offered the chance to determine, based on the evidence they collected, how Norovirus might have spread throughout the building and provide suggestions on how future incidents could be prevented.

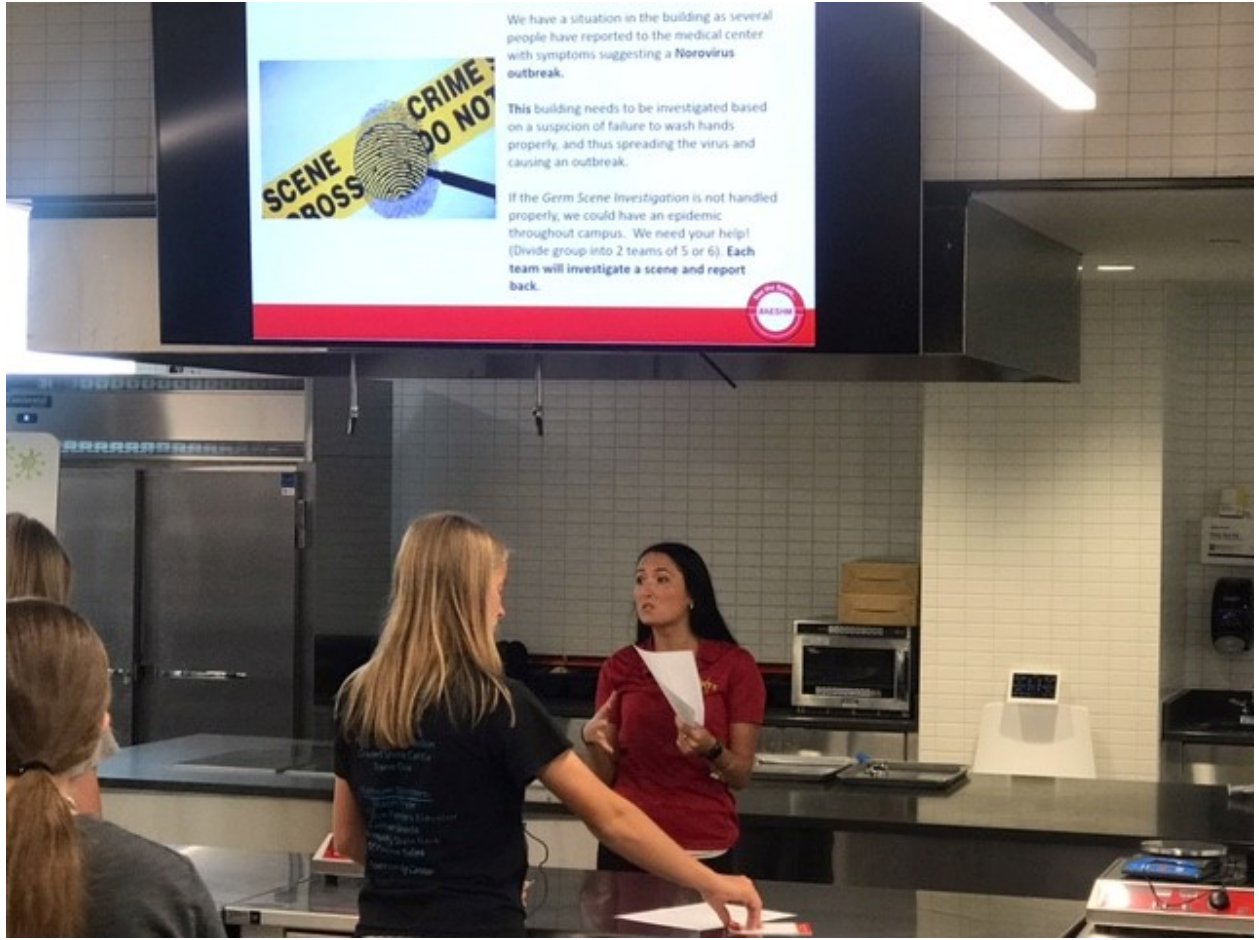
The 4-Hers worked in teams to listen to an initial briefing based on “the situation” of Norovirus outbreak and collect data based on eight clues on potential locations of contamination. Fluorescent “glo-germ” lotion applied to equipment and kitchen tools in the kitchen, restroom door handles, toilet flush handles, handwashing sink faucets, and towel dispensers, as well as the water fountains. When viewed under a fluorescent flashlight, the lotion glows in the dark, thus identifying locations where the “germs” are present and use that information to piece together how the virus spread around the building. 4-Hers’ were provided with special flash lights that that they could use to detect the “germs”.

After a debriefing, the participants presented their findings and explanation of how the virus spread occurred. Students watched a video with information about Norovirus and a second video about when, why, and how hands should be washed.

Participants then rubbed the “glo-germ” lotion on their hands and washed their hands using soap and water or only applied sanitizer without any handwashing.

After which they looked at their hands under the flashlight to see how well they washed their hands based on any residual “glow” left on their hands. Participants that only used hand sanitizer were able to see that using only sanitizer is not effective in getting rid of all type of germs. The workshop highlighted how quickly germs spread, and the importance of proper handwashing.





We have a situation in the building as several people have reported to the medical center with symptoms suggesting a **Norovirus** outbreak.



This building needs to be investigated based on a suspicion of failure to wash hands properly, and thus spreading the virus and causing an outbreak.

If the Germ Scene Investigation is not handled properly, we could have an epidemic throughout campus. We need your help! (Divide group into 2 teams of 5 or 6). **Each team will investigate a scene and report back.**

