

Food Safety Alert – 11/15/06

KGO-TV in San Francisco is reporting that there is new technology that may dramatically cut down the time it takes to test for the E. coli bacteria. The sensor was developed by chemical engineers and detects E. coli and other pathogens, including airborne anthrax, in about 10 minutes versus the current method that takes approximately 24 hours. The engineers said that a handheld detector should be available within a few months. "Richard Hamilton, MD, Chairman of Emergency Medicine: 'Over 70 million get affected by food poisoning every year. Three hundred thousand or so end up coming to the hospital, and a few thousand end up dying from it.'"

<http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=edell&id=4761505>

A report from (PRNewswire – FirstCall) in Santa Clara discusses the technology a bit further. It is based on Nanotechnology. The engineers from Nanosensors, Inc. typically develop sensors to detect explosives, biological agents and chemicals. They have completed the manufacture of the initial prototype that will be used to detect E. coli. It is made up of two components. One is a housing unit and the other is an external data gathering unit. They wish to begin third party testing of the instrument in the first quarter of 2007.

<http://news.moneycentral.msn.com/provider/providerarticle.asp?Feed=PR&Date=20061115&ID=6199698>