Population: Restaurant Workers
- Specific focus on kitchen staff
- Inadequate wages & benefits
- Cannot work remotely
- More likely to be female, Hispanic, young (16-24), and in poverty
- Less likely to have a higher education or union representation

Learning Objectives
1. Apply systems thinking to infectious disease and current research.
2. Perform a literature review on policy and intervention studies that are relevant to COVID-19 and restaurant workers
3. Evaluate and analyze these studies in the context of Cleveland, OH.

Activities
- I researched background on the restaurant worker population, establishing their high-risk status for COVID-19.
- I compiled, categorized, and evaluated studies based on their relevance to the restaurant worker population and COVID-19 exposure risk.

Deliverables
1. Literature review of workplace safety interventions and policies
2. Conceptual model that reflects results of literature review

Results
I categorized the studies into policy evaluations and the hierarchy of controls shown in Figure 1.
- Administrative Controls
- Vaccination & workplace protocols
- Engineering Controls
- Kitchen ventilation
- PPE
- PPE conservation in restaurants
- Policy Evaluations
- CARES Act & FFCRA
- OSHA

Lesson Learned
- How to establish sound criteria that results in a comprehensive list of studies
- How to write a focused literature review to establish a foundation for future policy work
- The hierarchy of controls is an effective framework for occupational interventions

Public Health Implications
- Governmental organizations and employers have not adequately protected workers from COVID-19 risk.
- Literature on the restaurant worker population was sparser than expected. COVID-19 has presented an opportunity to bolster the research and literature on working populations in the Public Health field.
- Further discussion is warranted regarding the role of public health professionals in the efforts to promote workers’ rights.

References