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May 23, 2022 Time 1400 (2:00PM EDT)
NH-HAN 20220523



***Salmonella* Enteritidis Outbreak**

Key Points and Recommendations:

- At least seven persons with *Salmonella* Enteritidis infections reported eating at the Buba Noodle Bar restaurant in Manchester, NH, prior to symptom onset; the restaurant voluntarily closed and has been served an order to remain closed pending results of a public health investigation.
- Clinicians should test for *Salmonella* in any patient presenting with signs or symptoms of infectious gastroenteritis and ask about this potential exposure.
 - Providers should use normal clinical laboratory resources for initial identification, when available.
 - Providers who do not have access to timely stool testing for *Salmonella* can send stool specimens to the NH PHL for assistance with testing (see guidance below).
- Any *Salmonella* isolate should be sent to the NH Public Health Laboratories (PHL) for further serotyping and whole genome sequencing to establish linkage to this outbreak.
- Immediately report any cases of *Salmonella* infection to the NH Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) by calling 603-271-4496 (after hours 603-271-5300 and ask for the public health professional on call).

Epidemiology:

Seven patients with *Salmonella* Enteritidis infection reported eating at the Buba Noodle Bar in Manchester, NH, prior to onset of symptoms. Symptom onset has ranged from 3/20/22 to 5/18/22, with most infections occurring in May. Cases have occurred in residents of Hillsborough (5), Merrimack (1), and Rockingham (1) Counties. Symptoms have included fever, abdominal cramping, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea (including four individuals with bloody diarrhea). One person required hospitalization and has since been discharged. NH averaged about 172 cases of *Salmonella* infection each year from 2015-2019, including about 53 cases each year from Hillsborough County; most are not associated with a common source outbreak. Since March 2022, however, an increased number of *Salmonella* infections have been reported from Hillsborough County, largely driven by increases from Manchester.

The NH Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) in collaboration with the Manchester Department of Health is investigating potential exposures. On May 20th, the implicated restaurant, Buba Noodle Bar, voluntarily closed, pending results of this investigation. Evaluation for other possible non-restaurant exposures is also occurring. Whole genome sequencing of *Salmonella* Enteritidis isolations is underway to assess genetic relatedness of infections. Additional cases associated with this cluster are possible as investigation of other *Salmonella* Enteritidis infections occurs.

Clinical Background:

Salmonella enterica, serovar Enteritidis is a common cause of Salmonellosis. *Salmonella* infection generally presents as a self-limited gastroenteritis with symptoms of fever, abdominal cramping, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea (which can be either watery or bloody). Symptoms often begin within 12-48 hours after infection but can take several days to develop, depending on the infectious dose ingested. Diarrhea is usually self-limited, lasting 3-7 days. If fever is present, it usually resolves within 48-72 hours. After resolution of gastroenteritis, people can continue to carry *Salmonella* in their stool for an average of 4-5 weeks. Antimicrobial therapy is NOT recommended for uncomplicated non-typhoidal *Salmonella* gastroenteritis, and antibiotics may increase the duration of carriage.

Salmonella [outbreaks](#) are common, and infections can be acquired from multiple sources including consumption of animal products contaminated by *Salmonella* (e.g., eggs, poultry, undercooked ground meat, unpasteurized dairy products) and produce contaminated with animal feces. Pet reptiles and amphibians (e.g., turtles, lizards, snakes, frogs) can also frequently carry and transmit *Salmonella*.

Testing:

If a clinician suspects a patient has *Salmonella*, stool culture should occur through normal local laboratory mechanisms. Any *Salmonella* isolates recovered should be sent to the NH Public Health Laboratories (PHL) for further serotyping and whole genome sequencing.

For healthcare providers who do not have access to timely stool testing for *Salmonella*, the NH PHL can accept stool specimens for culture and identification of *Salmonella*. Stool specimens should be collected in a stool collection kit (containing a vial with Cary-Blair media or Zinc PVA preservative). Ship specimens to the Public Health Laboratories within 24 hours of collection. If you are unable to ship within 24 hours, then the unpreserved specimen must be refrigerated at 2-4°C. If unable to ship within 72 hours, then the unpreserved specimen must be frozen (less than 0°C) until shipment (not recommended); please indicate on the test requisition form if the sample has been frozen.

Submission of any clinical specimen or laboratory isolate should be accompanied by a completed [Clinical Laboratory Test Requisition](#) form. The NH PHL can also help facilitate specimen or isolate submission by sending an emergency courier, which can be arranged by calling 603-271-4605 to request courier pick up.

For more information, see CDC's [website](#) on *Salmonella*.

- For any questions regarding this notification, please call the NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 during business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).
- If you are calling after hours or on the weekend, please call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at (603) 271-5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call.
- To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, please send an email to DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov.

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Message Type: Alert
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