

EPI Update for Friday, February 16, 2007
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Peanut butter implicated in *Salmonella* Tennessee outbreak**
- **Questions and answers about the *Salmonella* Tennessee outbreak**
- **Instructions for health care professionals and local public health**
- **Important information on intussusception and RotaTeq vaccine**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Peanut butter implicated in *Salmonella* Tennessee outbreak

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a health advisory regarding a multi-state outbreak of *Salmonella* Tennessee. Iowa is investigating six cases related to this outbreak. There are 288 cases nationally. Cases were first identified in August of 2006 and more cases are continuing to be identified.

CDC and FDA have implicated two brands of peanut butter with the same product number potentially contaminated with this strain of *Salmonella*. The products include the following:

- **Peter Pan peanut butter with a product code that starts with 2111**
- **Great Value peanut butter with a product code that starts with 2111**

Below are some questions and answers. This information will also be available on our Web site at www.idph.state.ia.us.

Questions and answers about the *Salmonella* Tennessee outbreak

What is *Salmonella* Tennessee?

Salmonella is a common bacterial infection. There are many different types of *Salmonella*. This type may currently be associated with peanut butter consumption.

What are the symptoms of *Salmonella* infection?

People infected with *Salmonella* may have mild or severe diarrhea, fever and sometimes vomiting. Infections can also occur in the bladder (called a urinary tract infection). Bladder infections appear to be more common with *Salmonella* Tennessee infections.

How soon after infection with *Salmonella* do symptoms appear?

Diarrhea and fever usually occur 12-36 hours after infection. Symptoms of urinary tract infections may occur days to weeks after consumption.

What peanut butter is associated with outbreak?

The following peanut butter brands and product numbers are associated with infection:

- Peter Pan peanut butter with a product code that starts with 2111
- Great Value peanut butter with a product code that starts with 2111

The Centers for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration believe these two kinds of peanut butter may be contaminated with *Salmonella* Tennessee. Other brands and lot numbers of peanut butters are believed to be safe to eat.

What should I do if I recently ate some of the contaminated peanut butter?

- *If you are not ill with symptoms of Salmonella* and have a jar of peanut butter that matches the brand and product number, throw the peanut butter away.
- *If you are ill with symptoms of Salmonella* and have a jar of peanut butter that matches the brand and product number, contact your health care provider. Do not throw away the peanut butter. Contact your local health department. They will determine whether your peanut butter should be sent for testing. You may be asked to provide a stool sample for testing.
- *If you had symptoms of Salmonella and are well now* and have peanut butter that may be contaminated, throw it away. There is no need to contact your health care provider, but do contact your local public health department.

What is the treatment for *Salmonella*?

Most people will recover without specific treatment; however, antibiotics may be prescribed by their physician.

How is *Salmonella* spread?

Salmonella is usually spread to people who are ill with the bacteria. The bacterium is often found in feces. Foods may become contaminated when someone ill with *Salmonella* prepares food for someone else. If you have symptoms, do not prepare or touch anyone else's food. And always wash your hands after going to the bathroom.

Instructions for health care professionals and local public health

Obtain stool specimens from anyone who is currently ill with symptoms of *Salmonella* and who report consumption of the implicated peanut butter. (They

must have eaten the brand of peanut butter listed above. The product code number must also be the same.). All stool specimens should be sent to University Hygienic Laboratory (UHL).

Instruct the patient not to throw away the peanut butter. Contact the local health department who will collect the peanut butter with the food collection kits. Local health departments should submit the food specimens via the UHL courier service. Local health departments will be receiving more information on specimen collection and case follow-up investigation directly from IDPH.

Important information on intussusception and RotaTeq vaccine

The FDA has received about 28 reports of intussusception following administration of Rotavirus, Live, Oral, Pentavalent vaccine (trade name RotaTeq), manufactured by Merck and Co., Inc. (www.fda.gov/cber/safety/phnrota021307.htm). FDA has issued this notification to encourage the reporting of any additional cases of intussusception that may have occurred or will occur in the future after administration of RotaTeq.

Intussusception, a form of bowel obstruction, occurs spontaneously in the absence of vaccination. The number of intussusception cases reported to date after RotaTeq administration does not exceed the number expected to occur without vaccination and the available evidence does not indicate that RotaTeq is linked with intussusception. CDC continues to believe that RotaTeq is safe and effective and supports the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' recommendation for routine immunization of all U.S. infants with three doses of RotaTeq administered orally at ages 2, 4 and 6 months. (www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/acip-list.htm)

Although the data so far suggests that RotaTeq does not cause intussusception, it is possible that because of incomplete reporting of cases to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) and other factors, some increased risk of intussusception associated with RotaTeq vaccination could yet be found. Thus, CDC and FDA are continuing to carefully monitor reports of possible adverse effects of the vaccine and encourage all health care providers and other individuals to report any adverse events to VAERS. For a copy of the vaccine reporting form, call 1-800-822-7967 or report online to www.vaers.hhs.gov.

A fact sheet regarding rotavirus vaccine and intussusception is available on the IDPH Immunization Program's Web page at www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/immunization/rotateq_ga.pdf

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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