

Bartlett Buzz

September 9, 2015

State Issues Salmonella Warning

Shared by Kim Vermedal

Salmonella Cases Linked to Recalled Cucumbers: Illnesses and Product in Alaska

This advisory alerts Alaska health care providers and the public of confirmed cases of Salmonella infection linked to consumption of cucumbers that may still be available for sale in Alaska. Andrew & Williamson Fresh Produce of San Diego, CA, initiated a voluntary recall today of garden cucumbers, which can be identified in distribution channels as "Limited Edition" brand pole cucumbers. The labelling on the cardboard cucumber cases indicates the product was packed by Rancho Don Juanito in Mexico (see image below).

Background

The Alaska Division of Public Health has been working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention since August 21, 2015, when a multi-state cluster of Salmonella serotype Poona cases was reported with an unknown source, which included one Alaska case with illness onset on August 2. On August 28, the Alaska State Public

Health Laboratory confirmed three additional cases of Salmonella associated with this cluster. Early investigation of the Alaska cases suggested an association with eating cucumbers, among other potential exposures. As of September 4, a total of 10 cases of Salmonella Poona have been confirmed in Alaska residents.

Mounting evidence obtained from Salmonella cases nationwide supports the role of recalled cucumbers from Mexico as the source of this outbreak.

Guidance for health care providers

Health care providers should be aware of the possibility of patients presenting with symptoms of Salmonella infection (e.g., diarrhea, fever, abdominal cramps). Stool specimens should be obtained and sent to the Alaska State Public Health Laboratory (ASPHL) for processing. See ASPHL webpage for information on specimen collection and handling: <http://www.dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Labs/Pages/publications/default.aspx>

Children under 5 years of age, adults

over age 65 years, and people with weakened immune systems are at higher risk for severe illness. Most people recover in 4 to 7 days, although some people develop severe illness leading to dehydration or invasive disease. In rare cases, infection with Salmonella can lead to death.

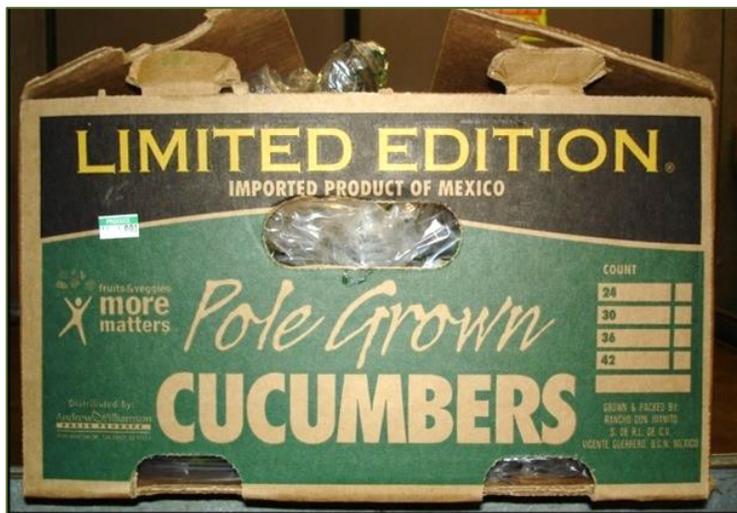
Cases of Salmonella are reportable to the Alaska Section of Epidemiology. Health care providers should call 907-269-8000 or 800-478-0084 after hours to report suspected or confirmed cases.

Guidance for the public

If you are unsure if your cucumbers were recalled, throw them out. Your place of purchase or supplier should know the source of your cucumbers. Contact your health care provider if you think you may have become ill after eating cucumbers. Most people will develop signs and symptoms of illness 12-72 hours after exposure to Salmonella.

Salmonella fact sheet:

http://epi.alaska.gov/id/dod/foodwater/FactSheet_Salmonellosis.pdf



HR Notes

Jeff Spindle, our Retirement Plans Specialist, will be at the hospital the following dates:

September 14th
8:00am-11:00am

September 16th
3:00pm-5:00pm

Seminar @ Bartlett 5:30pm-6:30pm



March for Babies - Juneau 2015

By Karen White

Date: Saturday, September 19, 2015

Time: 10:00AM

Registration Time: 9:00AM

Twin Lakes Park
3479 Glacier Hwy
Juneau, AK 99801



We're getting ready to walk in the March for Babies! It promises to be a fun day out with people who share our passion for improving the health of babies. Join family teams, company teams and people walking with friends for a great cause: making a difference for real families right here in our community. Sign up and raise money to help more moms have full-term pregnancies and healthy babies.

Bartlett Beginnings team, **BARTLETT BABES**, has raised over \$2000 thus far. Please join us for this event. Whether or not you can attend, you can donate on their web page or drop off a donation to any Bartlett OB staffer.

http://www.marchofdimes.org/alaska/events/10159_3136313936.html

Did you know this about the March of Dimes?

Immediately after it was founded in 1938, the March of Dimes established a system of committees to award research grants. The earliest

grants in basic science, virology, and medicine stimulated research in the sciences and led to the development of the polio vaccines developed by Jonas Salk, MD and Albert Sabin, MD. With our mission change to birth defects prevention in 1958, the Foundation maintained its firm commitment to basic science but with a shift of focus to the clinical delineation of birth defects. Since then, the March of Dimes has supported research into the cellular and molecular basis of genetic diseases, developmental processes and abnormalities, and the epidemiology of premature birth to improve medical diagnosis and develop treatments for a wide range of birth defects and developmental disorders. March of Dimes research has led to improved prenatal diagnosis of sickle cell anemia, discovery of the genes for Marfan and Fragile X syndromes, and the development of pulmonary surfactant therapy to treat respiratory distress syndrome. Since 1973, the Basil O'Connor Starter Scholarship Research Awards have assisted promising young scientists at the beginnings of their careers in birth defects research. Our Prematurity Research Initiative has focused especially on genetics and gene-environment interactions relating to the causes of prematurity. The Foundation's investment in research has led to 13 scientists winning the Nobel Prize since 1954, whose original work was supported by March of Dimes research grants.

Flu Spikes in Juneau!

By Kim Vermedal

We are seeing a spike in influenza (the Flu) in Juneau.

We have been seeing cases of influenza all summer long; however,

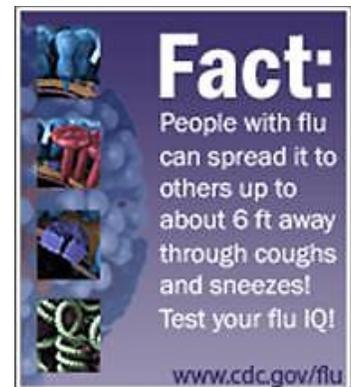
the number of cases has increased rapidly in the last week.

Symptoms of the flu include:

- **Fever**
- **Chills**
- **Muscle aches**
- **Cough**
- **Runny nose**
- **Headaches**
- **Fatigue**

As always, please do not come to work if you are ill.

You not only put your co-workers at risk, but our vulnerable patients as well.



We have not received our annual flu vaccine as of yet, but I expect it to arrive in the next few weeks.

Football Passes

We still have some dates available for the JDHS and TMHS football season passes for the Sept/Oct home games.

If you are interested, drop Jim Strader an e-mail at jstrader@bartlethospital.org today!

Two passes are available for JDHS and three for TMHS.

