

***Salmonella* Uganda Infections Associated with Cantaloupe**

June-July

Rice County/Multiple states

In July, 2011, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Public Health Laboratory identified a *Salmonella* Uganda isolate with MDH pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) pattern designation UG1. The case was interviewed about illness and exposures on July 21. On July 22, the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (SCDHEC) announced that they had identified a cluster of two *S. Uganda* cases with the same PFGE pattern by posting the information to PulseNet (the national molecular subtyping network for foodborne bacterial disease surveillance) information sharing site. On that same day, an MDH epidemiologist contacted SCDHEC to share case exposure information. The SCDHEC epidemiologist reported that they had identified two additional cases, and that all four

of the South Carolina cases reported eating breaded chicken products and cantaloupe. The Minnesota case reported consumption of cantaloupe, but not breaded chicken products. By July 29, 11 cases with matching PFGE pattern had been identified in 7 states; the CDC initiated a multi-state investigation.

In Minnesota, a case was defined as a Minnesota resident with laboratory-confirmed infection with *S. Uganda* PFGE subtype UG1.

Cases were interviewed by phone regarding illness history and potential exposures. A questionnaire developed by CDC was used in addition to the Minnesota routine surveillance form.

Information collected from case interviews was shared with CDC, other states, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

CDC coordinated a multi-state investigation of cases.

One case with a *S. Uganda* UG1 infection was identified in Minnesota. The case was a 3 year-old child with illness onset on June 23, was not hospitalized, and recovered. The case reported diarrhea and cramps, but no bloody stools, vomiting or fever. The case did not travel in the week prior to his illness onset.

Nationally, 13 cases with the outbreak strain of *S. Uganda* were reported from 7 states: Georgia, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Oklahoma, and South Carolina. Illness onset dates ranged from June 6 to July 15, 2011. The median age of cases was 59 years (range, 3 year to 78 years). Fifty-four percent were female. Three patients were hospitalized. One death was reported.

Among nine cases with available information, eight (89%) reported consuming cantaloupe in the week before illness onset, and the remaining case said they may have eaten cantaloupe.

A traceback investigation was conducted by MDA by reviewing records and invoices from the retailer where the Minnesota case's cantaloupe was purchased, but without data from other states, the source of the cantaloupes associated with this outbreak could not be identified.

This was a multi-state outbreak of *S. Uganda* infections associated with consumption of cantaloupes. The source of cantaloupes was not identified. One case associated with this outbreak was identified in Minnesota.