

***Salmonella* Enteritidis Infections Associated with Pollo Guisado at a Wedding**

February

Dakota County

On February 22, 2011, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Public Health Laboratory identified three *Salmonella* Enteritidis clinical isolates with the same pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) Minnesota pattern (SE77B52). The isolates were from residents of Burnsville, Minneapolis, and Monticello. An outbreak investigation was initiated.

Cases were identified through routine laboratory surveillance and were defined as Minnesota residents with laboratory-confirmed *Salmonella* Enteritidis infection with PFGE subtype SE77B52 and specimen collection dates on or after February 1, 2011.

Phone interviews regarding illness history and potential exposures were conducted for all cases using the Minnesota routine *Salmonella* surveillance interview form.

Three cases with *Salmonella* Enteritidis SE77B52 isolates were identified. Dates of illness onset were February 13 and February 14. The median age of cases was 39 years (range, 33 to 56 years). All three cases reported Hispanic ethnicity and spoke only Spanish. All three cases reported diarrhea, two (67%) reported fever, and one (50%) reported vomiting. Duration of illness for the two cases who had recovered at the time of the interview were 5 and 7 days, respectively. None of the cases were hospitalized.

The first case reported attending a wedding at a rented hall on February 12, but was unsure of the exact location. The other two cases also reported attending a wedding the same day, but were also unable to provide the exact name or location of the hosting venue. All three cases reported similar locations, identical event dates, and identical food menus, indicating that they all attended the same wedding. Foods served at the event included potato salad, rice, fried chicken, and a chicken dish cooked in a red sauce (pollo guisado). All three cases reported that the chicken in the pollo guisado was visibly raw in the middle, and all three reported consuming the dish anyway. None of the food was professionally catered, and the pollo guisado was prepared by a friend of the bride and groom.

None of the cases were willing to provide any contact information for wedding hosts. Since a guest list could not be obtained, MDH was not able to conduct interviews of any additional wedding guests. Based on location descriptions of the cases, MDH suspected that the hosting venue was a community center in Apple Valley. This venue confirmed that a large Hispanic wedding was held there on the date that the cases reported. The venue was unable to definitively confirm that this was the same wedding or to provide contact information for attendees. The hall had a non-catering kitchen, which is consistent with reports that the wedding was not professionally catered.

One case reported that several other wedding guests were ill, including her daughter, who also attended the wedding. A second case also reported his wife had a similar illness lasting about 2 weeks, with illness onsets on the same date as his.

This was an outbreak of *Salmonella* Enteritidis infections associated with a wedding reception. The vehicle was likely undercooked pollo guisado, a chicken dish served at the wedding.