

# Investigation Details

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Epidemiologic, laboratory, and traceback data show that packaged salads produced by Dole are contaminated with *Listeria* and making people sick.

## Epidemiologic Data

Since the last update on December 22, 2021, one more illness has been reported. As of February 1, 2022, 17 people infected with the outbreak strain of *Listeria monocytogenes* have been reported from 13 states. Illnesses started on dates ranging from August 16, 2014, to December 30, 2021.

Sick people range in age from 50 to 94 years, with a median age of 75, and 82% are female. Of 15 people with information available, 13 have been hospitalized. Two deaths have been reported from Michigan and Wisconsin.

The true number of sick people in an outbreak is likely higher than the number reported, and the outbreak may not be limited to the states with known illnesses. This is because some people recover without medical care and are not tested for *Listeria*. In addition, recent illnesses may not yet be reported as it usually takes 3 to 4 weeks to determine if a sick person is part of an outbreak.

State and local public health officials are interviewing people, or their family, about the foods they ate in the month before they got sick. Of the 9 people interviewed, 8 (89%) reported eating packaged salads. Of the three people who remembered a specific brand, two reported Dole and one reported Little Salad Bar.

## Laboratory Data

Dole collected samples from their facilities and equipment for testing and found *Listeria* on equipment used to harvest iceberg lettuce. FDA conducted whole genome sequencing and found that the *Listeria* on the equipment was the outbreak strain.

## Public Health Actions

On January 7, 2022, Dole recalled additional products containing iceberg lettuce harvested by the contaminated equipment.

Do not to eat, sell, or serve any recalled products.