

At least 19 ill after eating chicken lunch

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Two dozen or more people who attended a workshop on senior citizens services last month in Decatur may have contracted salmonella or the E. coli virus from a chicken lunch.

Michael Tubbs, executive director of Community Action Partnership in Decatur, said about two dozen of his volunteers and employees became sick after eating the lunch May 30 at Bridge Builders Church on Beltline Road.



A 71-year-old Decatur man died six days after eating the food, but no cause of death has been confirmed.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension Service sponsored the luncheon, and extension agent A Renee' Heard was the contact person, Tubbs said. Heard did not return phone calls this week.

The Alabama Department of Public Health has been notified and reportedly identified at least 19 possible cases of salmonella or E. coli in Morgan County.

Leigh Hayes, Decatur Morgan General Hospital spokeswoman, said this week the hospital does not track E. coli numbers and had nothing to report.

More than 200 people attended the luncheon, which had the chicken with a sauce, salad and roll.

The luncheon was part of an informational workshop for seniors, Tubbs said, and multiple organizations attended. Seniors learned about being safe and healthy and how to access services.

Symptoms of foodborne illnesses include stomach cramps, diarrhea, chills and vomiting.

For the complete story, read Sunday's *Daily*.

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