
Multistate Outbreak of *Salmonella* Poona Infections Linked to Imported Cucumbers

Posted September 15, 2015 4:30 PM ET

Highlights

- **Read the Recall & Advice to Consumers, Restaurants, and Retailers >>**
- CDC, multiple states, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (<http://www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm461317.htm>) (FDA) are investigating a multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Poona infections. This investigation is ongoing. CDC will provide updates when more information is available.
- 418 people infected with the outbreak strains of *Salmonella* Poona have been reported from 31 states, an increase of 77 cases since the last update on September 9.
 - 91 ill people have been hospitalized, and two deaths have been reported from California (1) and Texas (1).
 - 52% of ill people are children younger than 18 years.
- Epidemiologic, laboratory, and traceback investigations have identified cucumbers imported from Mexico and distributed by Andrew & Williamson Fresh Produce as a likely source of the infections in this outbreak.
- Several recalls of cucumbers that may be contaminated with *Salmonella* have been announced as a result of this investigation.
 - On September 11, 2015, Custom Produce Sales voluntarily recalled (<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm462154.htm>) all cucumbers sold under the Fat Boy label starting August 1, 2015. Unlabeled cucumbers packed into a black reusable plastic container, and sold in Nevada since August 1, 2015, are also covered by this recall. These cucumbers were sent to Custom Produce Sales from Andrew & Williamson Fresh Produce.
 - On September 4, 2015, Andrew & Williamson Fresh Produce voluntarily recalled (<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/NR15-067.aspx>) all cucumbers sold under the "Limited Edition" brand label during the period from August 1, 2015 through September 3, 2015.
- Recalled cucumbers were distributed in the states of Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma,

Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah. Further distribution to other states may have occurred.

- The type of cucumber that has been recalled is often referred to as a “slicer” or “American” cucumber and is dark green in color. Typical length is 7 to 10 inches. In retail locations the cucumbers are typically sold in a bulk display without any individual packaging or plastic wrapping.
- Photos of the packing cartons are available.
- Consumers should not eat, restaurants should not serve, and retailers should not sell any of the recalled cucumbers.
 - If you aren’t sure if your cucumbers were recalled, ask the place of purchase or your supplier. When in doubt, don’t eat, sell, or serve them and throw them out.
- CDC’s National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (<http://www.cdc.gov/narms/>) laboratory conducted antibiotic resistance testing on clinical isolates collected from 3 ill people infected with the outbreak strains.
 - All (100%) were susceptible to all antibiotics tested on the NARMS panel.
 - CDC’s NARMS laboratory continues to conduct antibiotic resistance testing on additional isolates, and results will be reported when they are available.

September 15, 2015

Case Count Update

Since the last update on September 9, 2015, 77 new ill people have been reported from Alaska (1), Arizona (6), California (17), Colorado (2), Idaho (6), Indiana (2), Minnesota (8), Montana (3), Nevada (2), New Mexico (4), North Dakota (1), Oklahoma (2), South Carolina (1), Texas (2), Utah (7), Washington (5), Wisconsin (7), and Wyoming (1).

As of September 15, 2015, a total of 418 people infected with the outbreak strains of *Salmonella* Poona have been reported from 31 states. The number of ill people reported from each state is as follows: Alaska (10), Arizona (72), Arkansas (6), California (89), Colorado (16), Hawaii (1), Idaho (14), Illinois (6), Indiana (2), Kansas (1), Kentucky (1), Louisiana (4), Minnesota (20), Missouri (8), Montana (13), Nebraska (2), Nevada (9), New Mexico (22), New York (4), North Dakota (2), Ohio (2), Oklahoma (10), Oregon (8), Pennsylvania (2), South Carolina (8), Texas (20), Utah (37), Virginia (1), Washington (15), Wisconsin (9), and Wyoming (4).

Among people for whom information is available, illnesses started on dates ranging from July 3, 2015 to September 3, 2015. Ill people range in age from less than 1 year to 99, with a median age of 17. Fifty-two percent of ill people are children younger than 18 years. Fifty-

three percent of ill people are female. Among 290 people with available information, 91 (31%) report being hospitalized. Two deaths have been reported from California (1) and Texas (1).

Illnesses that occurred after August 22, 2015 might not be reported yet due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill and when the illness is reported. This takes an average of 2 to 4 weeks. Please see the [Timeline for Reporting Cases of *Salmonella* Infection](#) for more details.

Investigation Update

On September 11, 2015, Custom Produce Sales [voluntarily recalled](#) (<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm462154.htm>) all cucumbers sold under the Fat Boy label starting August 1, 2015 because they may be contaminated with *Salmonella*. These cucumbers were sent to Custom Produce Sales from Andrew & Williamson Fresh Produce. Fat Boy label cucumbers were produced in Baja California, Mexico and distributed in the states of California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Texas. Unlabeled cucumbers packed into a black reusable plastic container, and sold in Nevada as of August 1, 2015, are also covered by this recall. The type of cucumber is often referred to as a “slicer” or “American” cucumber. It is dark green in color and typical length is 7 to 10 inches. In retail locations it is typically sold in a bulk display without any individual packaging or plastic wrapping. These cucumbers are shipped in a black, green, and red cardboard box which reads “Fat Boy Fresh Produce.” Photos of the packing cartons are [available](#) (<http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/poona-09-15/advice.html>).

Several state health and agriculture departments are collecting and testing cucumbers from retail locations for the presence of *Salmonella*. Since the last update on September 9, 2015, the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services isolated one of the outbreak strains of *Salmonella* Poona from cucumbers collected from retail locations. Preliminary information indicates that these cucumbers were distributed by Andrew & Williamson Fresh Produce. The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency isolated one of the outbreak strains of *Salmonella* Poona from cucumbers collected from the Andrew & Williamson Fresh Produce facility.

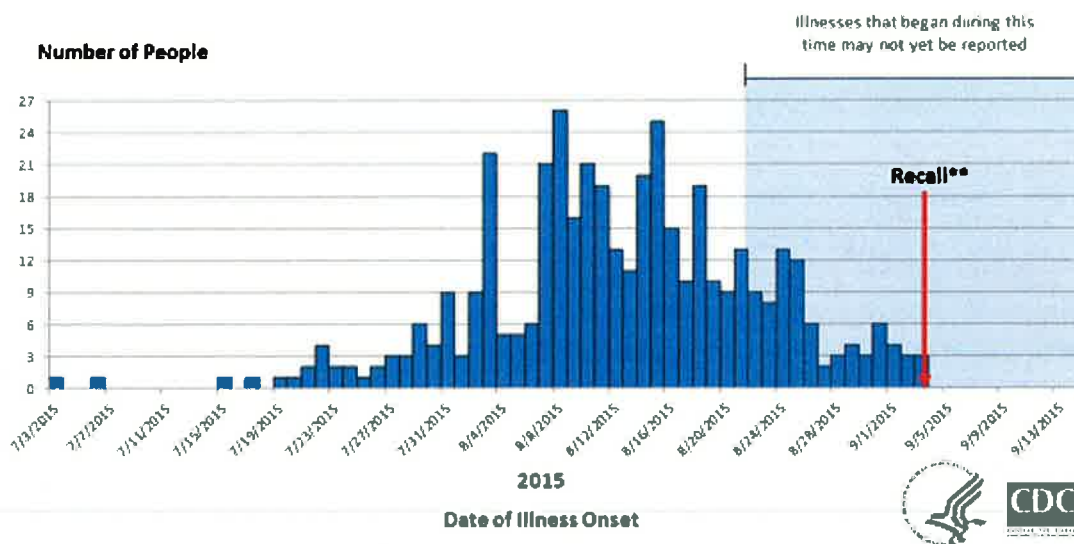
The [National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System](#)

<http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/AntimicrobialResistance/NationalAntimicrobialResistanceMonitoringSystem> (NARMS) is a U.S. public health surveillance system that tracks antibiotic resistance in foodborne and other enteric bacteria found in people, raw meat and poultry, and food-producing animals. NARMS is a partnership among the CDC, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), USDA, and state and local health departments.

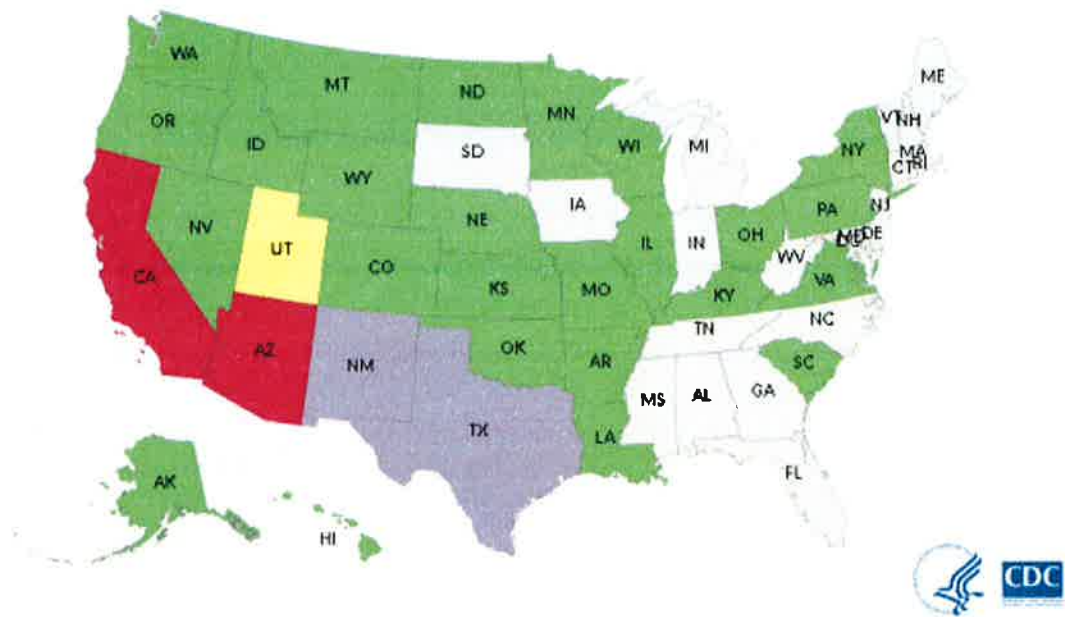
The NARMS human surveillance program (<http://www.cdc.gov/narms>) at CDC monitors antibiotic resistance in *Salmonella* and other bacteria isolated from clinical specimens submitted to NARMS by public health laboratories. CDC's NARMS laboratory conducted antibiotic resistance testing on clinical isolates collected from 3 ill people infected with one of the outbreak strains. Of the 3 isolates tested, all (100%) were susceptible to all antibiotics tested on the NARMS panel. CDC's NARMS laboratory continues to conduct antibiotic resistance testing on additional clinical isolates collected from ill persons infected with the outbreak strains. Results will be reported when they become available.

At A Glance

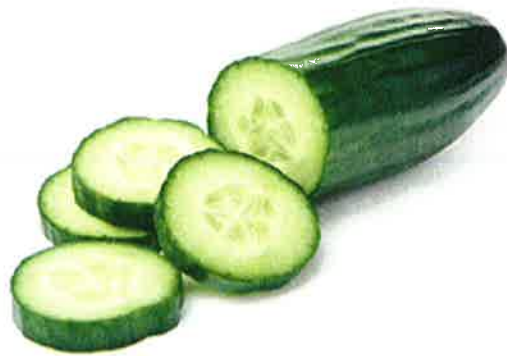
- Case Count: 418
 - States: 31
 - Deaths: 2
 - Hospitalizations: 91
 - Recall: Yes
-
- Advice to Retailers & Consumers
 - Signs & Symptoms
 - Key Resources



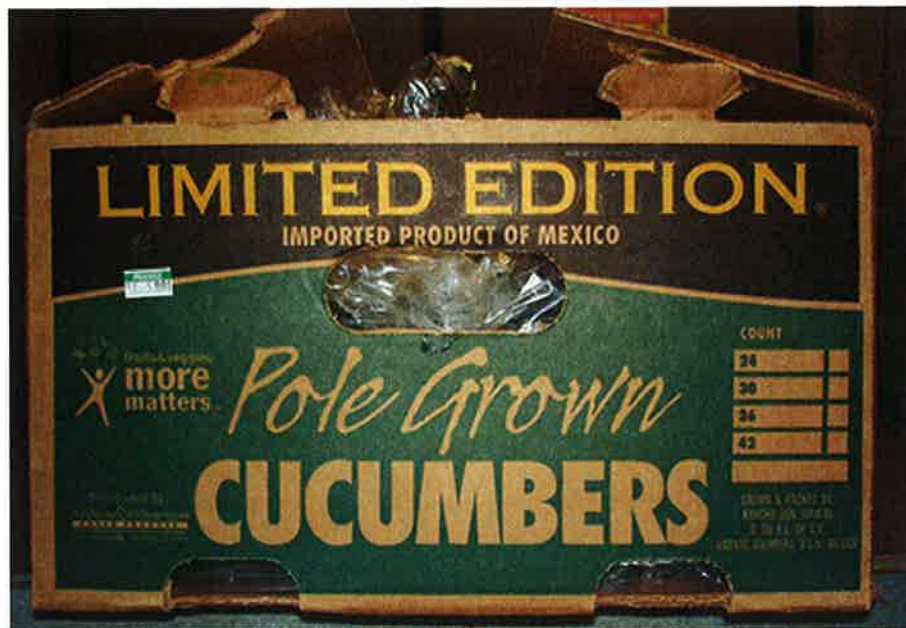
[CLICK TO VIEW EPI CURVE GRAPHS](#)



[CLICK TO VIEW CASE COUNT MAPS](#)



Garden cucumber



Packing carton of "Limited Edition" pole grown cucumbers recalled by Andrew & Williamson Fresh Produce.

> September 9, 2015

> Initial Announcement

File Formats Help:

How do I view different file formats (PDF, DOC, PPT, MPEG) on this site?

(<http://www.cdc.gov/Other/plugins/>)

(<http://www.cdc.gov/Other/plugins/#pdf>)

Page last reviewed: September 4, 2015

Page last updated: September 15, 2015

Content source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/>)

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) (</ncezid/index.html>)

Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases (DFWED) (</ncezid/dfwed/index.html>)