



Multistate Outbreak of Human *Campylobacter* Infections Linked to Pet Store Puppies

Posted September 11, 2017 9:00 AM ET

Outbreak Advisory

39	7	9	0
Cases	States	Hospitalizations	Deaths

- **Read Advice to Pet Owners and Advice to Pet Store Workers.**

- The Ohio Department of Health, several other states, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) are investigating a multistate outbreak of human *Campylobacter* infections linked to puppies sold through Petland, a national pet store chain.
- The outbreak includes 39 people with laboratory-confirmed *Campylobacter* infections or symptoms consistent with *Campylobacter* infection who live in 7 states (Florida, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Wisconsin) and were exposed to puppies sold through Petland stores.
 - 12 are Petland employees from 4 states.
 - 27 either recently purchased a puppy at Petland, visited a Petland, or visited or live in a home with a puppy sold through Petland before illness began.
- Epidemiologic and laboratory evidence indicates that puppies sold through Petland stores are a likely source of this outbreak. Petland is cooperating with public health and animal health officials to address this outbreak.
- *Campylobacter* can spread through contact with dog poop (feces). It usually does not spread from one person to another.
- This investigation is ongoing. CDC will provide updates as more information becomes available.



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COUNT MAPS



Initial Announcement

September 11, 2017

The Ohio Department of Health, several other states, CDC, and USDA-APHIS are investigating a multistate outbreak of human *Campylobacter* infections linked to puppies sold through Petland stores. Investigators are looking for the source of infections in people and puppies so they can recommend how to stop the outbreak and prevent more illnesses in order to protect human and animal health.

As of September 11, 2017, the outbreak includes 39 cases in 7 states (Florida, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Wisconsin). A list of the number of cases by state can be found on the [Case Count Map page](#).

Illnesses began on dates ranging from September 15, 2016 through August 12, 2017. The most recent illness was reported on September 1, 2017.

Ill people range in age from <1 year to 64 years, with a median age of 22 years; 28 (72%) are female; and 9 (23%) report being hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.

Epidemiologic and laboratory findings have linked the outbreak to contact with puppies sold through Petland stores. Among the 39 ill people, 12 are Petland employees from 4 states and 27 either recently purchased a puppy at Petland, visited a Petland, or visited or live in a home with a puppy sold through Petland before illness began.

Whole genome sequencing showed samples of *Campylobacter* isolated from the stool of puppies sold through Petland in Florida were closely related to *Campylobacter* isolated from the stool of an ill person in Ohio. Additional laboratory results from people and dogs are pending.

Regardless of where they are from, any puppies and dogs may carry *Campylobacter* germs. Read [Advice to Pet Owners](#) and [Advice to Pet Store Workers](#) for illness prevention tips.

➤ **[Advice to Pet Owners](#)**

➤ **[Advice to Pet Store Workers](#)**

➤ **[Advice to Veterinarians](#)**

More Information

- CDC *Campylobacter* website
- Healthy Pets Healthy People
- When and How to Wash Your Hands
- Pet Food Safety

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Content source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (/)

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) (/ncezid/)

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