

***Cyclospora* Infections Associated with a Grocery Service**

July

Multiple counties/Multiple states

Routine surveillance interviews of two cyclosporiasis cases conducted by Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) staff in July revealed that both cases had eaten produce delivered by the same mail order grocery service. Based on invoices provided by the cases, both cases received carrots, celery, yellow onions, and avocados on June 19, 2020. MDH epidemiologists notified the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) about the cases on July 28 and July 29, respectively.

A case was defined as a person with a laboratory-confirmed *Cyclospora* infection who reported consumption of produce from Grocery Service A in the 2 weeks prior to illness onset. Cases were interviewed using both a broad-based exposure questionnaire and an outbreak-focused questionnaire.

MDH obtained purchase history information from the cases and shared it with MDA. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted traceback investigations on produce ingredients.

Eighteen cases were reported from five states: Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin. Reported onset dates were June 14 to July 27. Seventy-eight percent of cases were female, and all cases were adults 20 to 74 years of age. Of the 17 cases with available hospitalization information, none were hospitalized; no deaths were reported.

The four cases from Minnesota reported a median onset date of July 1 (range, July 1 to July 20). All Minnesota cases were female, and the median age was 37.5 years (range, 33 to 45 years). No Minnesota cases were hospitalized, and no deaths were reported. All cases were residents of the Twin Cities metro area.

The CDC Laboratory was able to successfully perform next-generation sequencing on three Minnesota case specimens; all were identified to be part of the similar group 2020_005.

Minnesota cases reported getting a variety of produce items from Grocery Service A. Items reported by >75% of the four Minnesota cases included carrots (100%), avocado (100%), celery (75%), yellow onion (75%), and green onion (75%).

Epidemiologic and traceback evidence suggested that carrots and/or celery were the most likely vehicle, but neither item explained all cases. FDA traceback reviewed distribution and supplier information for carrots and celery but did not identify a single source or point of contamination for the outbreak. Traceback investigation noted a common carrot supplier from Mexico and resulted in a request for increased screening from two firms residing in that country. *Cyclospora* was not detected in a sample obtained from one of two celery suppliers identified via traceback.

This was a multi-state foodborne outbreak of cyclosporiasis associated with consumption of carrots and/or celery obtained from a mail order grocery service. FDA traceback did not identify a single source or point of contamination for the outbreak.