

Outbreak of *Cyclospora* Infections Linked to Bagged Salad Mix

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This outbreak appears to be over. CDC, public health and regulatory officials in several states, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) investigated a multistate outbreak of *Cyclospora* infections linked to bagged salad from the Streamwood, Illinois Fresh Express production facility.

Take action if you have symptoms of a *Cyclospora* infection:

- Talk to your healthcare provider.
- Write down what you ate in the two weeks before you started to get sick.
- Report your illness to the health department.
- Assist public health investigators by answering questions about your illness.

Latest Outbreak Information

- This outbreak appears to be over.
- CDC, public health and regulatory officials in 14 states, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration investigated a multistate outbreak of *Cyclospora* infections.
- As of September 23, 2020, a total of 701 people with laboratory-confirmed *Cyclospora* infections associated with this outbreak were reported from 14 states: GA, IL, IA, KS, MA, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, PA, SD, WI. Exposures were reported in 13 states (IL, IA, KS, MA, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, PA, SD, WI).
 - Illnesses started on dates ranging from May 11, 2020 to July 24, 2020. Ill people ranged in age from 11 to 92 years with a median age of 57; 51% were female.
 - 38 (5%) people were hospitalized. No deaths were reported in this outbreak.

- [Epidemiologic evidence](#) and product traceback indicated that bagged salad mix containing iceberg lettuce, carrots, and red cabbage produced by Fresh Express was a likely source of this outbreak.
- Fresh Express recalled Fresh Express brand and private label brand salad products produced at its Streamwood, IL facility that contained iceberg lettuce, red cabbage, and/or carrots on June 27, 2020.

In interviews, ill people [answered questions about the foods they ate and other exposures](#) in the 2 weeks before they became ill. An illness cluster is defined as two or more people who do not live in the same household who report eating at the same restaurant location, attending a common event, or shopping at the same location of a grocery store in the week before becoming ill. Investigating illness clusters provides critical clues about the source of an outbreak. If several unrelated ill people ate or shopped at the same location of a restaurant or store within several days of each other, it suggests that the contaminated food item was served or sold there. In this bagged salad-associated cluster, there were several situations in which people reported purchasing the product from the same stores.

The FDA and regulatory officials in several states collected records to determine the source of the bagged salad that ill people ate in the affected areas. Product distribution information indicated that the Streamwood, Illinois Fresh Express production facility is the likely producer of the bagged salad mixes eaten by ill people.

Investigation Details

At a Glance

- Reported laboratory-confirmed cases: [701](#)
- States: [14](#)
- Deaths: 0
- Hospitalizations: 38
- Recall: [Yes](#)

More Information

[Outbreak Summary - September 24, 2020](#)

CDC, public health and regulatory officials in 14 states, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration investigated a multistate outbreak of *Cyclospora* infections.

As of September 23, 2020, a total of 701 people with laboratory-confirmed *Cyclospora* infections associated with this outbreak were reported from 14 states: GA (1), IL (211), IA (206), KS (5), MA (1), MI (4), MN (86), MO (57), NE (55), ND (6), OH (7), PA (2), SD (13), WI (47). Exposures were reported in 13 states (IL, IA, KS, MA, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, PA, SD, WI).

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Investigation of the Outbreak

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In interviews, ill people [answered questions about the foods they ate and other exposures](#) in the 2 weeks before they became ill. An illness cluster is defined as two or more people who do not live in the same household who report eating at the same restaurant location, attending a common event, or shopping at the same location of a grocery store in the week before becoming ill. Investigating illness clusters provides critical clues about the source of an outbreak. If several unrelated ill people ate or shopped at the same location of a restaurant or store within several days of each other, it suggests that the contaminated food item was served or sold there. In this bagged salad-associated cluster, there were several situations in which people reported purchasing the product from the same stores. The bagged salad containing iceberg lettuce, red cabbage, and carrots was sold as either Fresh Express brand or private store label brand through several large grocery store chains that ill people reported shopping at; traceback investigations indicated that the different store brands came from the same producer.

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