

***Salmonella* Enteritidis Infections Associated with a Restaurant**

May – June

Anoka County

On June 26, 2020, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Public Health Laboratory (PHL) determined that two clinical *Salmonella* Enteritidis isolates submitted through routine surveillance were zero alleles different from each other by core genome multi locus sequence typing (cgMLST). After re-interview it was determined that both cases had eaten at a restaurant in Centerville during the week prior to onset of illness. Anoka County Public Health & Environmental Services (ACPHES) was contacted, and an investigation was initiated.

A case was defined as a person who tested positive for *S. Enteritidis* that was within ≤ 2 alleles from the outbreak strain by cgMLST.

ACPHES staff visited the restaurant on June 30 to assess recent employee illness, instruct the restaurant to clean and sanitize, review food handling and preparation procedures for menu items ordered by cases, and assess potential for cross-contamination.

Two cases were identified, both through routine surveillance. Reported illness onset dates for cases were May 29 and June 4. The incubation period for the case with illness onset on June 4 was 13 days; the incubation for the other case was unknown. Both cases were still ill at the time of interview, but neither were hospitalized. Both cases reported diarrhea and fever, one reported vomiting, one reported bloody stools, and one reported abdominal cramps. The case who ate at the restaurant on May 22 consumed sesame chicken and fried rice. The case with the unknown meal date consumed shrimp fried rice and egg rolls.

ACPHES did not find any reports of recent employee illness, additional complaints, or potential environmental health hazards during the environmental health assessment on June 30.

On July 14, MDH was notified of a multi-state cluster with 10 cases in 5 states (Florida; Minnesota, 2; Mississippi, 3; North Dakota, 3; Tennessee). Isolates were all within 0-2 alleles and were collected between April 26 and June 20. The median age was 50 years (range, 8 to 69 years), and 50% of cases were female. The multi-state investigation was closed on August 4 with 13 cases from 6 states and no common source identified.

This was an outbreak of *Salmonella* Enteritidis infections associated with a restaurant. The vehicle of transmission and source of contamination were not identified. However, the two cases were closely related in time, had *Salmonella* isolated that were highly related by cgMLST, ate at the same restaurant, and had no other specific exposures in common, indicating that the restaurant was the source of their illnesses.