

Salmonella Outbreak Linked to Cantaloupes



Food Safety Alert

Posted January 19, 2024

This outbreak is over. Learn what you can do to protect yourself from getting sick from *Salmonella*.

Fast Facts

- Illnesses: 407
- Hospitalizations: 158
- Deaths: 6
- [States](#): 44
- Recall: Yes
- Investigation status: Closed (first posted on November 17, 2023)



Recalled Food

All recalls that resulted from this investigation are listed on [FDA's cantaloupe recall website](#). Recalled cantaloupes are no longer available for sale and the use-by dates have passed.

What You Should Do

Always follow [four food safety steps](#) to prevent getting sick from *Salmonella*:

- **Clean:** Wash your hands, utensils, and surfaces often.
- **Separate:** Keep food that won't be cooked separate from raw meat, poultry, and seafood.
- **Cook:** Use a food thermometer to make sure you have cooked your food to [a temperature high enough to kill germs](#).
- **Chill:** Refrigerate perishable food (food that goes bad) within 2 hours. If the food is exposed to temperatures above 90°F (like a hot car or picnic), refrigerate it within 1 hour. Thaw food in the refrigerator, not on the counter.

Symptoms of *Salmonella*

- Most people infected with *Salmonella* experience diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps.
 - Symptoms usually start 6 hours to 6 days after swallowing the bacteria.
 - Most people recover without treatment after 4 to 7 days.
- Some people—especially children younger than 5 years, adults 65 years and older, and people with weakened immune systems—may experience more severe illnesses that require medical treatment or hospitalization.

Investigation Details

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CDC, public health and regulatory officials in several states, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) investigated a multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* (Sundsvall and Oranienburg) infections.

Epidemiologic, laboratory, and traceback data showed that cantaloupes were contaminated with *Salmonella* made people sick.

As of January 19, 2024, this outbreak is over.

Epidemiologic Data

A total of 407 people infected with one of the outbreak strains of *Salmonella* were reported from 44 states (see [map](#)). Illnesses started on dates ranging from October 15, 2023, to December 25, 2023 (see [timeline](#)). Of 362 people with information available, 158 (44%) were hospitalized. Six deaths were reported

The true number of sick people in this outbreak was likely much higher than the number reported, and the outbreak may not have been limited to the states with known illnesses. This is because many people recover without medical care and are not tested for *Salmonella*.

Public health officials collected many different types of information from sick people, including their age, race, ethnicity, other demographics, and the foods they ate in the week before they got sick. This information provided clues to help investigators identify the source of the outbreak.

The table below has information about sick people in this outbreak (“n” is the number of people with information available for each demographic).

Table of demographic information (n is the number of people with information available)

Demographics	Information
Age (n=404)	Range from <1 to 100 years Median age of 60 years 26% are 5 years or younger 47% are 65 years or older
Sex (n=406)	45% male 55% female
Race (n=321)	84% White 10% African American/Black 4% Asian 1% Native American or Alaska Native <1% reported more than one race
Ethnicity (n=328)	85% non-Hispanic 15% Hispanic

State and local public health officials interviewed people about the foods they ate in the week before they got sick. Of the 197 people interviewed, 135 (69%) reported eating cantaloupe. This percentage was significantly higher

than the 19.6% of respondents who reported eating cantaloupe in the FoodNet Population Survey—a survey that helps estimate how often people eat various foods linked to diarrheal illness. Of the 134 people who reported eating cantaloupe, 67 people specifically reported eating pre-cut cantaloupe and 40 reported eating whole cantaloupe. Fifty-two people resided at long-term care facilities when they got sick. Among 24 of these people interviewed, 12 reported eating cantaloupe. Forty-four children attended childcare centers when they got sick. Of 34 children with information available, 19 ate cantaloupe.

Laboratory Data

[WGS analysis](#) of bacteria from 405 people's samples did not predict resistance to any antibiotics. More information is available at the [National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System \(NARMS\)](#) site.

Canada also investigated this [Salmonella outbreak](#) and linked the illnesses to cantaloupes. The strain that caused illnesses in Canada was the same strain as the U.S. illnesses.

Public Health Action

Several recalls of cantaloupe products were issued as a result of this investigation:

- On November 1, 2023, Malichita brand cantaloupes were [recalled](#) in Canada.
- On November 8, Trufresh [recalled](#) Malichita brand whole cantaloupes that were sold to US businesses between October 16 and October 23.
- On November 15, Trufresh [expanded](#) their recall to include additional whole cantaloupes.
- On November 14, Vinyard Fruit and Vegetable Company [recalled](#) pre-cut fruit products and ALDI [recalled \[PDF – 2 pages\]](#) its whole cantaloupe, cantaloupe chunks, and pineapple spears.
- On November 22, 2023, Trufresh [expanded their recall](#) again to include all Malichita brand and Rudy brand whole cantaloupes. Crown Jewels [recalled](#) Malitchita brand whole cantaloupes. CF Dallas [recalled](#) pre-cut fruit products containing recalled cantaloupes.

- On November 27, 2023, Kwik Trip [recalled](#) pre-cut cantaloupe and fruit mixes.
- On November 28, Bix Produce [recalled](#) pre-cut fruit cups.
- On November 29, GHGA [recalled](#) pre-cut cantaloupe products sold at Kroger, Sprouts Farmers Market, and Trader Joe's.
- On November 30, Cut Fruit Express [recalled](#) pre-cut cantaloupe products with use-by dates from November 4 through November 6.
- On December 5, TGD Cuts [recalled](#) pre-cut cantaloupe products with use-by dates from November 2 through November 24.
- Stop & Shop [recalled](#) cantaloupes purchased from October 23 through November 11.