

Salmonella outbreak associated with CrackleMi Café in Seattle

Cases	3
Hospitalizations	0
Deaths	0
Status	Investigation in progress
Location	709 N 35th St, Seattle, WA 98103
Illness Onset Date Range	August 16, 2023 – August 20, 2023
Meal Date Range	August 7, 2023 – August 17, 2023
Current Inspection Rating	OKAY

Highlights, posted September 21, 2023

Summary

Public Health is investigating an outbreak of salmonellosis (caused by *Salmonella* bacteria) associated with CrackleMi Café in Seattle. All three people who were interviewed reported eating a different type of banh mi sandwich (e.g., pork, chicken, and egg banh mi).

Illnesses

Since August 21, 2023, three people from three separate households reported becoming sick. The people who became sick ranged in age from 23 to 38 years old. All three people developed one or more symptoms consistent with salmonellosis, including nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, bloody stool, and fever. We did not identify any ill employees.

Public Health actions

Public Health conducted interviews with the people who became sick to identify potential common exposures and identified that they all became ill after eating a banh mi sandwich from CrackleMi Café in Seattle.

Environmental Health Investigators visited the restaurant on September 19 and 20, 2023. Investigators reviewed the restaurant's food preparation process that could result in cross contamination between different types of meats or other ingredients. They observed factors that may have contributed to the outbreak such as risk of cross-contamination, improper handwashing, and improper glove use. The facility voluntarily closed on September 20, 2023, to clean and disinfect. Public Health Investigators will verify cleaning and disinfection prior to reopening.

Laboratory testing

All three cases had confirmatory testing indicating infections with *Salmonella* via culture. Further testing indicated all three cases had the same strain of *Salmonella*, based on genetic fingerprinting (whole genome sequencing or WGS) at the Washington State Public Health Laboratory.

[Salmonella outbreak associated with CrackleMi Café in Seattle - King County, Washington](#)