Salmonella Newport/Cantaloupe/Feb 2026 - CARA ID 1366

On 2/17/2026, CDC notified CORE about a *Salmonella* Newport cluster ((b)(5) , with an early epidemiological signal for a general healthy diet and cruise ship travel in (b)(5) states including: (b)(5) The epidemiologic signal identified whole or cut cantaloupe prior to illness onset as a suspect vehicle. On 2/25/2026, based on FDA import data, CORE requested increased screening of cantaloupe from two firms from Guatemala and (b)(4) firm from (b)(4) On 2/27/2026, an additional firm from Guatemala was added. Traceback investigations on cantaloupe purchased by 10 cases from nine points of service from (b)(5) , determined that they were imported from (b)(4) , Guatemala. Ayco Farms, Inc., Pompano Beach, FL, was identified as an importer of cantaloupes distributed to eight of nine traceback legs. Cantaloupes shipped to Ayco Farms were sourced from Ayco Farms, San Jorge and Agrobassy Farms located in (b)(4) , Guatemala. CORE initiated 11 traceback assignments for information and records collection. CORE also issued a for cause inspection assignment for record, information collection, and sample collection from Ayco Farms Guatemala, S.A. and packinghouse, (b)(4) , Guatemala, and to (b)(4) and packinghouses in (b)(4) , Guatemala. A two-item FDA Form 4056 was issued to (b)(4) for failure to monitor dump tank water. A two-item FDA Form 4056 was also issued to Ayco Farms for failure to maintain dump tank water temperatures and fraying edges on a food contact surface conveyor belt. Thirty-seven cantaloupe samples were collected because of an increased import screening and they all tested negative for *Salmonella*. Twenty-three foreign inspection samples were collected from Ayco and (b)(4) and their packing houses in Guatemala. Five samples resulted in 73 isolates testing positive for four non-outbreak strain *Salmonella* spp. including *S*. Gaminara, *S*. Abaetetuba, *S*. Newport, and *S*. Carrau. Some isolates WGS matched each other, and some matched between the two farms. WGS of one environmental isolate matched five clinical isolates collected between 2021 and 2026. On 3/24/2026, Ayco Farms Inc., FL, voluntarily recalled a specific lot of whole cantaloupe. On 4/1/2026, FDA placed Agrobassy Y CIA LTDA and Ayco San Jorge Y Compania Limitada on Import Alert 99-35. At closeout, this outbreak included 70 cases from (b)(5) states: (b)(5)