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Batavia restaurant opens after salmonella scare

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For The Beacon-News

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BATAVIA — Aliano's Ristorante is serving customers again after a Kane County Health Department inspection cleared it of a salmonella scare.

Tom Schlueter, health communications coordinator for the Health Department, said employees had to test negatively twice and the restaurant had to pass a routine inspection, which it did.

"They were cleared to open," Schlueter said Friday.

Schlueter said the restaurant voluntarily closed Sept. 14 and had been cooperating with the health department investigation.

The downtown Italian restaurant, at 90 N. Island Ave., reopened Thursday evening, six days after the Health Department began investigating six cases of salmonella with common links back to the restaurant. Schlueter said the cases were reported by medical professionals, as required by law.

On Friday, Schlueter said, "no salmonella was found."

"Our kitchen from day one passed with flying colors," restaurant owner Mario Aliano said. "All of our employees were tested twice and every one came back negative. We want the word out it is safe to eat here."

Schlueter said earlier that tracking down the potential source of a salmonella outbreak can sometimes be difficult, and sometimes you never pinpoint the exact source.

"With any food-borne illness we have to conduct an investigation for the public's safety – that is our priority," he said.

Schlueter said, however, the investigation is ongoing as the Health Department monitors for potential illness and conducts routine inspections.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, most people infected with salmonella develop diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps 12 to 72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts four to seven days, and most people recover without treatment.

Mario Aliano and his brother, Phil, opened Aliano's in the River Square Shopping Center between Wilson and Houston streets in the fall of 2011. The restaurant, known for its pasta dishes and pizza, recently expanded to offer outdoor seating for patrons.

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