



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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Multistate Outbreak of Listeriosis Linked to Imported Marte Brand Frescolina Ricotta Salata Cheese

Posted September 21, 2012 4:00 PM ET

At a Glance:

- **Case Count:** 15 (</listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/epi.html>)
- **States:** 12 (</listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/map.html>)
- **Deaths:** 3
- **Hospitalizations:** 15
- **Recall:** Yes (</listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/advice-consumers.html>)

More Information:

- Recall & Advice to Consumers (</listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/advice-consumers.html>)
- Signs & Symptoms (</listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/signs-symptoms.html>)
- Key Resources (</listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/key-resources.html>)

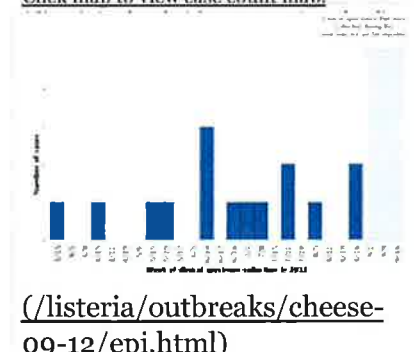
Latest Case Count Map



[\(/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/map.html\)](/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/map.html)

Latest Epi Curve

[Click map to view case count map.](#)



[\(/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/epi.html\)](/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/epi.html)

[Click graph to view epi curve graph.](#)

[\(/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/epi.html\)](/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/epi.html)

Highlights

- **Read the Advice to Consumers »** (</listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/advice-consumers.html>)

- As of September 20, 2012, a total of 15 persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Listeria monocytogenes* have been reported from 12 states and the District of Columbia.
 - The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: California (1), Colorado (1), District of Columbia (1), Maryland (3), Minnesota (1), Nebraska (1), New Jersey (1), New Mexico (1), New York (1), Ohio (1), Pennsylvania (1), Virginia (1), and Washington (1).
 - All 15 ill persons were hospitalized. Three deaths have been reported. Listeriosis contributed to at least one of these deaths.
- Collaborative investigation efforts of local, state, and federal public health and regulatory agencies indicate that imported ricotta salata cheese is the likely source of this outbreak.
 - On September 10, 2012, Forever Cheese, Inc. voluntarily recalled one lot of Marte brand Frescolina ricotta salata cheese (<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm318844.htm>)  (<http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html>) due to *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination.
 - On September 21, 2012, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an expanded recall of all lots and production codes (<http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/CORENetwork/ucm319197.htm>)  (<http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html>) of Marte brand Frescolina ricotta salata cheese, and all cheese by the Italian cheese maker.
 - New information regarding the various names and brand labeling of the implicated Frescolina ricotta salata cheese is available.
 - This cheese may also have been referred to as Ricotta Frescolina Marte Tipo Toscanella and/or Ricotta Salata Soft Lot (T9425) as it was being distributed.
- Consumers who purchased recalled Marte brand Frescolina ricotta salata cheese are advised not to eat it and to discard any remaining cheese. This is especially important for pregnant women, persons with weakened immune systems, and older adults.
 - When in doubt, throw it out.
- CDC will update the public on the progress of this investigation as information becomes available.

September 21, 2012

Case Count Update

A total of 15 persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Listeria monocytogenes* have been reported from 12 states and the District of Columbia. This includes one new case from Washington state.

Among persons for whom information is available, illness onset dates range from March 28, 2012 to August 30, 2012. All 15 ill persons reported being hospitalized. Four of the illnesses were related to a pregnancy; two of these illnesses were diagnosed in newborns. The other 11 ill persons range in age from 30 years to 87 years, with a median age of 77 years, and 64% percent of them are female. No fetal losses have been reported. Three deaths have been reported. Listeriosis contributed to at least one of the deaths in Nebraska and New York, but did not contribute to the death in Minnesota.

Results of testing of clinical specimens that were collected after September 4, 2012 might not be reported yet due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill and when the illness is reported.

Initial Announcement

September 11, 2012

CDC is collaborating with public health and regulatory officials in several states and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate a multistate outbreak of *Listeria monocytogenes* infections (listeriosis). Joint investigation efforts indicate that ricotta salata cheese is the likely source.

Public health investigators are using DNA “fingerprints” of *Listeria* obtained through diagnostic testing with pulsed-field gel electrophoresis, or PFGE, to identify cases of illness that may be part of this outbreak. They are using data from PulseNet (<http://www.cdc.gov/pulsenet/>), the national subtyping network made up of state and local public health laboratories and federal food regulatory laboratories that performs molecular surveillance of foodborne infections... ([show more »](#)) (#)

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Content source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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