

Salmonella Outbreak Associated with Peanut Butter

Since the fall of 2006, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state public health departments have been investigating a multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Tennessee associated with the consumption of Peter Pan and Great Value peanut butter. As of March 7, 2007, 425 cases had been reported to the CDC from 44 states; seven of those cases originated in Vermont.

Epidemiology: A slow rise in numbers of *S.Tennessee* was identified in the fall of 2006 by PulseNet, the CDC's national network for foodborne disease surveillance. The CDC and states conducted an investigation comparing foods eaten by ill and well persons; Peter Pan and Great Value peanut butter were statistically associated with illness. Cases ranged from <1-95 years, with a median age of 50; 72% of cases were female. Among 351 cases for whom clinical information was available, 71 (20%) were hospitalized. Onset dates ranged from 8/1/06 to 2/16/07, with 67% of illnesses occurring after 12/1/06. There have been no deaths associated with the outbreak.

PulseNet and PFGE

PulseNet is a national network of public health and food regulatory agency laboratories coordinated by the CDC. Participants perform molecular subtyping (or "fingerprinting") by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) of foodborne disease-causing bacteria, including *E.Coli* O157, *Salmonella*, *Shigella* and *Listeria*. DNA "fingerprints" are submitted electronically to a database at the CDC, allowing for rapid comparison of patterns and early identification of possible outbreaks. The Vermont Department of Health Laboratory is a participant in PulseNet. To learn more about PulseNet, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/pulsenet/index.htm>

Recall & Processing Plant: On 2/14/07, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recalled all Peter Pan peanut butter, and jars of Great Value peanut butter beginning with the code 2111. The following week, several states identified the outbreak strain of *S.Tennessee* in opened jars of peanut butter obtained from ill persons. Product originated in a ConAgra Foods plant in Sylvester, Georgia. Samples in the plant environment obtained by FDA were also found to be positive for the outbreak strain. Details of the FDA investigation have yet to be released.

Salmonella Tennessee in Vermont: Previous to 8/06 *S.Tennessee* had not been identified in Vermont. Between 8/06 and mid-February 2007, Vermont identified seven cases, all with the outbreak strain. Ages ranged between 2-71 years, and five cases were female (71%). Four cases reported diarrhea (57%), two reported abdominal cramps, and only one vomiting; two cases were asymptomatic. No hospitalizations occurred as a result of infection. Cases were not related and originated in four counties. Among the seven cases, five reported having eaten Peter Pan peanut butter during the seven days before onset of illness.

Recommendations: Vermonters who think they may be ill from eating Peter Pan or Great Value peanut butter should contact their health care provider, and notify the health department at (802)863-7240. Persons who have any Peter Pan peanut butter, or Great Value peanut butter with a product code beginning with 2111, should discard the product. Health care providers are asked to continue to be alert for symptoms of *Salmonella* and obtain stool specimens for the organism when indicated.

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The *Infectious Disease Bulletin* can be viewed at:

<http://healthvermont.gov/pubs/IDB/index.aspx>

For questions & comments, please contact Mary Spayne at (802)863-7240

Vermont – Selected Reportable Diseases – 2007

(Data through MMWR Week 8 – 2/24/07) – Provisional

Number of Cases Year-To-Date																				
	Campylobacter	Cryptosporidium	E.coli O157:H7	Giardia	Group A Strep Inv	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B - Acute	Hepatitis B - Chronic	Hepatitis C - Acute	Hepatitis C - Chronic	Legionellosis	Listeriosis	Lyme	Meningococcal Inf.	Pertussis	Salmonella	Shigella	Tuberculosis*	Varicella	
Age																				
<5	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	0	0	11	
5-14	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	0	0	0	44	
15-24	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	16	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	
25-39	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	6	0	36	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	
40-64	4	1	0	8	1	0	0	2	0	87	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	
65+	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Total (YTD)	11	2	0	17	6	0	0	8	1	139	1	0	4	1	15	6	0	1	60	
5-yr Median (YTD)	11	2	0	16	3	2	0	†	1	†	1	0	1	1	16	6	0	0	†	
County of Residence																				
Addison	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	0		3	
Bennington	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	
Caledonia	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		2	
Chittenden	1	1	0	5	2	0	0	1	0	50	0	0	2	0	0	4	0		13	
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	
Franklin	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	2	0		1	
Grand Isle	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	
Lamoille	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		5	
Orange	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	
Orleans	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		2	
Rutland	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	14	1	0	1	0	0	0	0		3	
Washington	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	1	5	0	0		13	
Windham	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	13	0	0	0	0	8	0	0		6	
Windsor	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		11	
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	
Total (YTD)	11	2	0	17	6	0	0	8	1	139	1	0	4	1	15	6	0	1	60	
VDH District Office																				
Barre	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	5	0	0		13	
Bennington	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	
Brattleboro	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	8	0	0		6	
Burlington	1	1	0	5	2	0	0	1	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	4	0		12	
Middlebury	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0		4	
Morrisville	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		6	
Newport	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		2	
Rutland	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		3	
St. Albans	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0		2	
St. Johnsbury	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	
Springfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		5	
White River	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		6	
Central Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	0	0	4	0	0	0	0		0	
Total (YTD)	11	2	0	17	6	0	0	8	1	139	1	0	4	1	15	6	0	1	60	

(802)863-7240

1(800)640-4374 (VT)

FAX: (802)865-7701

*This column partially obscured to protect patient confidentiality

†Data captured differently in previous years; no 5-year median available