



**UPDATE:**  
**NATIONAL OUTBREAK OF *SALMONELLA* SEROTYPE  
TYPHIMURIUM INFECTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH  
PEANUT BUTTER PRODUCTS, 2008–2009**

The Georgia Department of Human Resources Division of Public Health (DPH) is collaborating with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other states in the investigation of the multi-state outbreak of individuals infected by *Salmonella* serotype Typhimurium.

**CONFIRMED CASES IN GEORGIA**

As of 8 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 24, 2009, six persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Typhimurium have been reported in Georgia. Among the patients with dates available, illnesses began between late October and early December 2008. Patients range in age from seven to 73 years old. The six confirmed Georgia cases reside in Bulloch, DeKalb, Effingham, Elbert, Gwinnett and Toombs counties. Five of the six cases are male. Two persons were hospitalized and have since recovered. No deaths have been reported.

Note: Illnesses that occurred after December 20, 2008 may not yet be reported due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill and when the illness is reported. This takes an average of two to three weeks. Please see the *Salmonella* Outbreak Investigations: Timeline for Reporting Cases (<http://www.cdc.gov/Salmonella/reportingtimeline.html>) for more details.

**OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION**

The investigation is ongoing, and exposures to peanut butter and other peanut butter-containing products are being examined. DPH is working with District Health Offices, the Georgia Public Health Laboratory and CDC to: identify cases, administer a standardized questionnaire to ill and healthy Georgians, participate in CDC national case-control studies and provide laboratory support for clinical and/or food samples when appropriate.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on available information, the Georgia Division of Public Health, the CDC and the FDA recommend the following:

- Persons who think they may have become ill from eating peanut butter are advised to consult their health care providers.
- If you have a recalled pet product in your household, do not feed it to your pet or other animals. Any recalled product should be thrown away to prevent *Salmonella*

infections in humans, pets, or other animals. Contact a veterinarian if any household pet is ill and has or may have eaten recalled peanut butter based products.

- Postpone eating other peanut butter containing products (such as cookies, crackers, cereal, candy and ice cream) until more information becomes available about which brands may be affected.
- Do not eat products that have been recalled and throw them away in a manner that prevents others from eating them. Visit FDA's Web site for the names and lot numbers of the recalled products.
- Use FDA's to check if foods you're concerned about are on the recall list. Call the consumer hotline phone number that may be on any product packaging you have to get information directly from the product manufacturer.

### **SYMPTOMS OF *SALMONELLA* INFECTION**

- Most persons infected with *Salmonella* develop diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps 12 - 72 hours after infection.
- Infection is usually diagnosed by culture of a stool sample. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days.
- Although most people recover without treatment, severe infections may occur. Infants, elderly persons, and those with impaired immune systems are more likely than others to develop severe illness.
- When severe infection occurs, *Salmonella* may spread from the intestines to the bloodstream and then to other body sites and can cause death unless the person is treated promptly with antibiotics.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/typhimurium>
- Georgia Department of Agriculture <http://www.agr.georgia.gov>
- FDA <http://www.fda.gov>