



County of Erie

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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HEALTH ADVISORY #203* **June 21, 2007** **INCREASE IN REPORT OF SALMONELLOSIS IN ERIE COUNTY**

Please distribute to the Infection Control Department, Emergency Department, Department, Employee Health Service, Infectious Disease Department, Pediatrics, Director of Nursing, Medical Director, Laboratory Services, and all patient care areas.

SUMMARY

- The Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) has observed an increase in the number of reported cases of salmonella during the period from April 1, 2007 through mid June 2007.
- ECDOH is asking providers to consider and test for Salmonella when evaluating patients with gastrointestinal illness.
- Suspect or confirmed human salmonellosis cases should be promptly reported to the ECDOH at (716) 858-7697.

BACKGROUND

The Erie County Department of Health has observed an increase in the number of laboratory confirmed salmonellosis cases in recent weeks. During the period from April 1, 2007 through June 15, 2007, 28 cases of salmonellosis were reported compared to 9 cases during the same period in 2006. The majority of cases were *Salmonella enteriditis* (Group D).

Human isolates have been examined by the New York State Department of Health's Wadsworth Laboratory. Three *Salmonella enteriditis* strains have been identified in Erie County from April 1, 2007 through June 15, 2007. The majority of isolates tested thus far match a strain responsible for an increase in *Salmonella enteriditis* cases occurring in several other states. A second strain has been identified in two Erie County residents and a single resident from a surrounding county. The third strain has been identified among a small number of Erie County residents who ate at a local restaurant during the same 24-hour time period.

The ECDOH investigation is ongoing. A small number of cases were associated with a local restaurant; however, no significant epidemiologic links between the majority of cases have yet been identified.

TESTING

The ECDOH is asking providers to consider Salmonella infection when evaluating patients with gastrointestinal illness. Specimens should be collected from suspect cases for bacterial culture testing.

REPORTING

Identified cases of Salmonella infection among Erie County residents should be reported promptly to the ECDOH at (716) 858-7697 or the local county health department where the patient resides. If the patient resides outside New York State, please notify the New York State Department of Health Regional Epidemiology Program at (716) 847-4500.

INFORMATION

For more information on Salmonella please visit the following link:

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/salmonellosis_g.htm

Health Category Definitions:

Health Alert FLASH: conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Alert Priority: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary

** Gap in numbering sequence. Health Advisory #202 was disseminated only to hospitals.*