

Investigation of Outbreak of Infections Caused by *Salmonella* Typhimurium, 2008-2009

As of Feb. 12, 2009, 17 North Dakota cases with illness onset dates ranging from 11/21/08 – 1/20/2009 have been associated with the outbreak investigation of over 600 cases of *Salmonella* reported from 44 states. The age range of ND cases is younger than 5 years to older than 90 years (median age of 34 years). Fifty-nine percent of cases are male. Three cases have been hospitalized; all cases have recovered. Counties where cases were reported include: Barnes, Burleigh, Cass, Morton and Ward. The nationwide investigation update can be viewed on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/salmonella/typhimurium/.

Epidemiologic investigations by the Minnesota and Connecticut Departments of Health have suggested that King Nut creamy peanut butter is the likely source of recent *Salmonella* infections. The Minnesota state laboratory tested an open container of King Nut brand creamy peanut butter and the outbreak strains of *Salmonella* Typhimurium were isolated. The Connecticut state laboratory isolated the outbreak strains for *Salmonella* Typhimurium from an unopened container of King Nut Peanut Butter. This product and another brand, Parnell's Pride, were voluntarily recalled on Jan. 10, 2009, based on these laboratory findings.

The peanut butter manufacturer of King Nut and Parnell's Pride brands, Peanut Corporation of America (PCA), issued a recall on Jan. 13, 2009, of peanut butter sold in bulk packaging to distributors for institutional and food service industry use. On Jan. 18, 2009, PCA expanded the recall to include more products and lot numbers relating to peanut butter and peanut paste products manufactured on or after July 1, 2008, at its Blakely, Ga., plant. On Jan. 28, 2009, PCA further expanded the recall to include all peanuts and peanut products processed in its Blakely, Georgia facility since Jan. 1, 2007. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends that consumers avoid eating products that have been recalled and discard them. Major national brands of jarred peanut butter are not affected by the PCA recall. PCA only sells peanut butter to institutions and food manufacturers. Food manufacturers that use PCA peanut butter or peanut paste in baked or processed foods such as crackers, cookies, cakes, or ice cream have issued recalls of these types of products. FDA has created a list of products and brands associated with the expanded PCA recall at www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm and will be updated on a regular basis as additional information is received by FDA and the industry.

In North Dakota, of the 13 cases, five cases reported consuming King Nut peanut butter prior to illness. Three cases have been associated with one long-term care facility and one hospital. One case has been identified consuming peanut butter crackers at this time. The North Dakota Department of Health continues to work with federal and state agencies in this ongoing investigation. Environmental health practitioners in North Dakota are working with FDA, food distribution centers and state agencies to notify all institutional settings and retail outlets that received recalled products implicated in this outbreak investigation.

For more information, contact Sarah Weninger or Julie Wagendorf with the North Dakota Department of Health Division of Disease Control at 701.328.2378 or 1.800.472.2180.