

MEMO

TO: N.D. Schools
Pediatricians
Family Practice Practitioners
Infectious Disease Practitioners

FROM: Kirby Kruger
State Epidemiologist

RE: *Stop the Spread of Salmonella* Educational Campaign

DATE: March 4, 2008

Last year between the months of May and September, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) investigated seven cases of *Salmonella* related to contact with baby chickens. Exposures in all cases were traced to chicks purchased from mail-order chicken hatcheries, primarily two hatcheries in Iowa, and from local farm supply stores. Three of the cases in child siblings were serious blood infections requiring hospitalization. Environmental testing of a bird enclosure at the children's residence was consistent with the strain causing human illnesses.

This year, the NDDoH and State Board of Animal Health are working together to provide educational materials to farm supply stores and animal feed stores about health requirements on interstate movement of animals and information about preventing the spread of *Salmonella*. These educational materials will also be available to the public who purchase chicks and feed at these venues and more. For your information, a letter addressed to bird vendors in North Dakota describing this effort and an educational brochure is enclosed with this memo.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions please feel free to call Julie Goplin or myself at 701.328.2378 or toll-free 800.472.2180.

Encs.