



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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Commissioner

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Message Type: Health Update
Status: Actual
Severity: Moderate
Sensitive: No
Jurisdiction: State

DATE: January 20, 2009

TO: Physicians, Hospital Emergency Departments, Infection Control Practitioners, New Hampshire Hospital Association, Community Health Centers, Long-Term Care Facilities, School Nurses, School Administrators, DHHS Outbreak Team and DPHS Management Team

FROM: José T. Montero, MD, Director

SUBJECT: Peanut Butter contaminated with *Salmonella* Update

NH Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) recommends:

- Reviewing recall announcements on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration website to determine if your institutional setting serves any of the recalled products. Please share this alert with your dietary/food service department.
- Visiting the U.S. Food and Drug Administration website daily for the most current information on recalled peanut butter and peanut butter containing products
- Not eating products that have been recalled and throwing them away in a manner that prevents others from eating them
- Postpone eating other peanut butter containing products (such as cookies, crackers, cereal, candy and ice cream) until more information is available about which brands are affected
- Timely reporting of *Salmonella* cases to the NH DHHS Communicable Disease Control and Surveillance Section at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext.5300)

Background:

NH DHHS is collaborating with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and public health officials in many states to investigate a multistate outbreak of human infections due to *Salmonella* serotype Typhimurium. As of Sunday, January 18, 2009, 475 persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Typhimurium have been reported from 43 states and Canada. There are 11 cases associated with this outbreak in New Hampshire.

Preliminary analysis of an epidemiologic study conducted by CDC and public health officials in multiple states indicates that peanut butter is a likely source of the bacteria causing the infections. To date, no association has been found with major national brand name jars of peanut

butter sold in grocery stores. As a result of the outbreak investigation, Peanut Corporation of America has recalled all peanut butter and peanut paste produced at its Blakely, Georgia plant since July 1, 2008. The peanut butter and peanut paste are ingredients in many products, including cookies, crackers, cereal, candy, ice cream and other foods. Austin and Keebler peanut butter crackers produced by Kellogg Company were recalled on January 16. Many other products containing potentially contaminated peanut butter have also now been recalled. The list of recalled food products includes cookies, crackers, cereal, candy, ice cream and sports and nutrition bars. Food retailers and facilities serving or selling foods are encouraged to check the U.S. Food and Drug Administration website regularly for new recall announcements so that recalled products can be removed immediately.

Most persons infected with *Salmonella* develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12 to 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.

Visit the FDA website for a list of recalled products:

<http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyph.html>

Visit the CDC website for additional information on the national outbreak:

<http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/typh0109/010909.html>

CATEGORIES OF HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) MESSAGES:

Message Type:

Health Alert:	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention
Health Advisory:	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not warrant immediate action
Health Update:	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation
Cancel:	Prior communications alert has been canceled
Error:	Prior alert or communication has been retracted

Status:

Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

Severity:

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

Sensitive:

Yes:	Indicates sensitive content is included
No:	Indicates non-sensitive content is included

Jurisdiction:

National:	Indicates national recipients
State:	Indicates state recipients
Territorial:	Indicates territorial recipients
Local:	Indicates local recipients

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification database. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would prefer to be used please contact Denise Krol, NH HAN Coordinator, by phone at 603-271-4596 or by email at denise.krol@dhhs.state.nh.us