



Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Division of Disease Control

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Health Advisory – Multistate Outbreak of *Salmonella* Tennessee February 17, 2007

Public health officials in 39 states are investigating a large multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Tennessee infections associated with eating "Peter Pan" peanut butter. As of February 15th, 290 persons with *Salmonella* Tennessee have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including 25 persons from Pennsylvania. The 39 states with reported illness are: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and West Virginia. Onset dates are known for 171 patients, and range from August 1, 2006 through January 30, 2007. Thirty-one patients have been hospitalized; there have been no reported deaths associated with this outbreak.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued an advisory, and the company has initiated a voluntary recall of implicated lots of "Peter Pan" peanut butter along with specific lots of "Great Value" peanut butter manufactured in the same facility. All jars have the product code beginning 2111 on the lids.

Most persons with *Salmonella* develop diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps 12-72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts 4-7 days, and is generally self-limiting. Infections may be more severe in the elderly, in infancy, and in the immunocompromised.

- Individuals with symptoms of diarrhea who present for medical evaluation and have a history of peanut butter consumption should have a stool culture submitted for bacterial pathogens. If they still have the jar they should keep it in a safe place where no one will consume its contents. Public health officials will collect the jar if the stool culture identifies the presence of *Salmonella*.
- Persons who have not become ill, and who have peanut butter with product code "2111" should discard the jar. No stool culture is indicated for persons who have been and remain asymptomatic.
- Clinicians and clinical laboratories should report all cases of salmonellosis in Philadelphia residents to the Division of Disease Control, Philadelphia Department of Public Health, at 215-685-6748.

Additional information about this multistate outbreak is available at www.cdc.gov, or www.fda.gov. Please contact the Division of Disease Control at 215-685-6740 (215-686-1776 after business hours) if you have questions about this advisory. Cases outside of Philadelphia should be reported to the appropriate public health agency.