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Health Advisory #13



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Health Alert Network



PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HEALTH ADVISORY #13

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Date: July 16, 2004

Subject: **Salmonella javiana Gastroenteritis Outbreak in Pennsylvania**

To: Health Alert Network

From: Calvin B. Johnson, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary of Health

Counties Affected: Statewide distribution

This transmission is a "Health Advisory," provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

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LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

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The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) is releasing the following information related to an ongoing investigation of an outbreak of *Salmonella javiana* gastroenteritis.

PADOH is working with other state health departments in the region, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Sheetz, Inc. to investigate an outbreak of *Salmonella javiana* gastroenteritis. At this time, the outbreak seems to be associated with eating food purchased

from Sheetz gas station deli counters throughout the region. The outbreak involves more than 70 cases among Pennsylvania residents throughout the state, and several dozen other cases are suspected among residents of nearby states where Sheetz stores are located.

All illness onsets associated with this outbreak were in July. It is not yet known if the outbreak is ongoing. The specific source of the current outbreak has not yet been identified (despite press reports to the contrary). Past *Salmonella javiana* outbreaks have been associated with fresh produce, among other potential sources.

Sheetz is a mid-Atlantic chain of gas stations with a busy deli take-out section preparing sandwiches, salads, and nachos. Sheetz stores are located in PA, MD, WV, VA, NC, and eastern OH, often along interstate highways. Sheetz has voluntarily and proactively taken measures to eliminate potential sources of infection from their stores.

Pennsylvania physicians are reminded to obtain stool cultures for *Salmonella* from their patients when clinically indicated. *Salmonella* isolates are routinely sent from clinical laboratories to the PADOH Bureau of Laboratories for serotyping and serogrouping. Patients diagnosed with *Salmonella* infection in Pennsylvania are routinely contacted by public health investigators to obtain information on possible sources for their *Salmonella* infections; those patients who may be associated with this outbreak might also be asked to provide more detailed food histories to assist PADOH and CDC and the involved state health departments in the investigation.

Cases can be reported by calling your local health department or the PA DOH at 877-PA-HEALTH or at the PA-NEDSS secure Website at <https://www.nedss.state.pa.us/nedss/>. The List of Reportable Diseases mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health is available at <http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?A=171&Q=230520>.

For a fact sheet on Salmonella click here:
<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=171&q=230569>

Categories of Health Alert messages:

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 require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

This information is current as of July 16, 2004, but may be modified in the future. We will continue to post updated information regarding the most common questions about this subject.