

ATTACHMENT NO. 4:

Health Update #05-04



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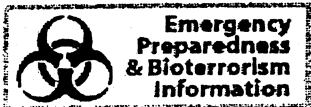
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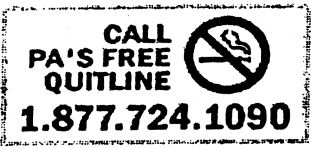


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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HEALTH UPDATE#05-04



Date: July 30, 2004
Subject: Second Salmonella Serotype With Human Cases Is Now Associated With Tomatoes Eaten At Sheetz
To: Health Alert Network
From: Calvin B. Johnson, M.D., M.P.H.
 Secretary of Health



This transmission is a "Health Update", provides updated information regarding an incident or situation, no immediate action necessary.

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The following is an update from previous Health Advisory # 13 Salmonella javiana Gastroenteritis Outbreak in Pennsylvania. July 16, 2004

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) is releasing the following information related to new findings in the ongoing epidemiological investigation of the gastroenteritis outbreak associated with tomatoes eaten at Sheetz.

A case-control study strongly implicated Roma tomatoes as the vehicle

for the outbreak. Approximately 300 cases of salmonellosis likely linked to this outbreak occurred in Pennsylvania, and dozens more are under investigation in nearby states. All exposures occurred in the first half of July. There continues to be **no evidence that this outbreak is ongoing.**

The dominant *Salmonella* serotype in this outbreak is clearly javiana, but at least three *S.anatum* human cases in Pennsylvania are now linked to the previously implicated food item (tomatoes) obtained at more than one store location of the previously implicated chain (Sheetz).

The only food sample culture-positive thus far during the investigation was a single tray of sliced tomatoes obtained by the PA Department of Agriculture from a Sheetz store. That tomato culture revealed *S.anatum* (in serogroup E1), not *S.javiana* (in serogroup D1). An *S.anatum* case-patient ate tomatoes from the same store, and there is a preliminary report of an identical PFGE pattern between the human isolate and food isolate. Two other human *S.anatum* isolates also matched that PFGE pattern.

Pennsylvania normally sees zero to two human *S.anatum* cases monthly, statewide.

Multi-serotype *Salmonella* outbreaks are unusual but have occurred before.

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>.

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 30, 2004, but may be

modified in the future. We will continue to post updated information regarding the most common questions about this subject.

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