



This is an official
DHEC Health Advisory

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10243-DHA-09-23-11-BBQSalm

**Outbreak of GI Illness Associated with a York, SC Barbecue
Fundraising Event**

Background

This Health Advisory is distributed to provide information regarding an on-going investigation of gastrointestinal (GI) illness associated with a fundraising event at which plate lunches and bulk meat were sold. This is an on-going investigation, and this preliminary information is subject to change.

On Friday, September 16 and Saturday, September 17, a fundraising event was held at the Grace Covenant Church in York, SC. Boxed meals of BBQ pork, sauce, bun, coleslaw, baked beans, and pound cake were sold. Food was prepared at the church for distribution. At least 300 meals were sold to the public. BBQ pork was also sold in bulk.

SC DHEC has received notification of severe GI illness in at least 43 people who reported having eaten food distributed at this fundraising event. At this time, no other common exposures are known among those who became ill. Several individuals who reported consuming food from this event have sought medical care and one has been hospitalized. Most ill individuals have reported severe diarrhea and abdominal cramping, with symptoms lasting up to 4-5 days in some cases. A few have complained of fever, headaches and/or body aches.

SC DHEC Bureau of Laboratories has begun testing on both clinical and food samples. Testing of BBQ pork samples identified *Salmonella spp.* Results on clinical specimens are pending.

This preliminary investigative information is being shared to assist providers in the diagnosis, treatment and reporting of patients who present with GI illness and history of consumption of food purchased at this event.

Recommended Guidance

- Hospitals and medical offices should operate on a heightened index of suspicion related to this outbreak.
- Providers should consider evaluating symptomatic patients with history of consuming food from this event for *Salmonella* and possibly other enteric pathogens.
- Please report suspected cases that are associated with eating food purchased at this event to SC DHEC Region 3 as soon as the case is identified.
- Providers who have seen patients in the past week with severe GI illness and report of consumption of food distributed at this event should contact DHEC at the numbers given below.
- SC DHEC recommends no further consumption of food purchased at this event. Food should be thrown away, and not fed to animals.
- Providers should remind patients that handwashing can reduce the spread of disease and prevent secondary cases.
- This advisory serves as a reminder that any outbreak, unusual disease, or cluster of cases is immediately reportable to local county health departments.
- Questions regarding testing or treatment and reports of possible cases should be directed to Region 3's Outbreak Response Team (M-F, 8:30 to 5: 803.286.9948; Nights/Weekends: 866.867.3886)

DHEC contact information for reportable diseases and reporting requirements

Reporting of clusters/outbreaks of GI illness is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2011 List of Reportable Conditions available at: <http://www.scdhec.gov/administration/library/CR-009025.pdf>

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Regional Public Health Offices – 2011

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

Region 1

Anderson, Oconee
220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 260-4358
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda
1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Region 2

Greenville, Pickens
PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union
PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227, x- 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

Region 3

Chester, Lancaster, York
PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

Region 3 (continued)

Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland
2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

Region 4

Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter
PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 775-9941
Nights/Weekends: (803) 458-1847

Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion
145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 601-7051

Region 5

Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg
PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 533-7134
Nights / Weekends: (803) 516-5166

Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 643-8386
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-1519

Region 6

Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg
1931 Industrial Park Road
Conway, SC 29526-5482
Phone: (843) 915-8804
Fax: (843) 365-0085
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Region 7

Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester
4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 953-0047
Fax: (843) 953-0051
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Region 8

Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper
219 S. Lemacks Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 525-5910
Fax: (843) 549-6845
Nights / Weekends: 1-843-441-1091

DHEC Bureau of Disease Control

Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology
1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



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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