

## ***Salmonella* Newport Infections Associated with a Graduation Party**

May

Hennepin County

On May 22, 2012, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Public Health Laboratory (PHL) determined that three clinical *Salmonella* Newport isolates submitted through routine surveillance had indistinguishable pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) patterns (NEW122). All three were interviewed by MDH staff as part of routine surveillance and reported attending the same graduation party held at a private residence in Brooklyn Park on May 12. An investigation was initiated immediately.

From May 23 through July 3, eight additional *S.* Newport cases with matching PFGE patterns were identified through routine surveillance. However, no common food vehicle was identified among the additional cases and no cases reported consuming food items that were served at the graduation party.

All *S.* Newport cases in Minnesota are routinely interviewed about potential exposures, including foods consumed at home and at restaurants, as part of routine surveillance. Interviews of *S.* Newport cases that are indistinguishable by PFGE are compared to identify potential common exposures. Information gathered during routine interviews is reviewed by an MDH epidemiologist.

After the initial cases reported attending the same graduation party, the party host was contacted. He provided information on what foods were served at the party and where those foods were purchased. He also initially agreed to provide contact information for additional graduation party attendees. However subsequent repeated attempts to re-contact him were unsuccessful. A case was defined as an individual from whom *S.* Newport NEW122 was isolated after attending the graduation party on May 12.

Five graduation party attendees were interviewed. One additional case could not be reached for interview and was lost to follow-up. Case illness onsets ranged from May 13 to 15. Among the five cases interviewed, all five reported diarrhea, four (80%) fever, three (60%) cramping, and one (20%) bloody diarrhea and vomiting each. The median incubation period was 1.5 days (range, 1 to 3 days). The median duration of illness was 7 days (range, 5 to 11 days). Two cases were hospitalized, each for two days.

Graduation party attendees reported consuming a variety of foods at the event including goat (n=2), chicken (n=2), rice (n=2), salad (n=1), goat tripe (n=1), meat pie (n=1), fish (n=1), soup (n=1), and chips (n=1). Several cases had difficulty identifying the dishes that were served and reported consuming "African foods." The lack of non-ill controls precluded a meaningful analysis of food exposures.

The party host reported that chicken, meat pies, salads, goat meat, goat tripe, goat intestines, salad, and rice were served at the event. The goat and chicken were purchased from a live animal market in St. Paul and all of the foods were prepared in the same kitchen prior to the event.

This was an outbreak of *S.* Newport NEW122 infections associated with a graduation party and identified through routine disease surveillance. The tightly grouped illness onsets suggest a food vehicle at the event as the most likely source of illness. However, the lack of cooperation from the event host prevented the identification of a vehicle.