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## Salmonella

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# Multistate Outbreak of *Salmonella* Newport Infections Linked to Organic Sprouted Chia Powder

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Posted May 29, 2014 3:30 PM ET

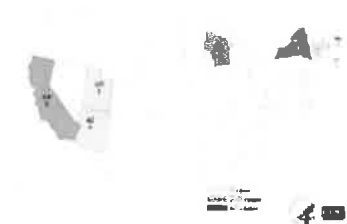
### At a Glance:

- **Case Count: 12** (</salmonella/newport-05-14/epi.html>)
- **States: 7** (</salmonella/newport-05-14/map.html>)
- **Deaths: 0**
- **Hospitalizations: 1**
- **Recall: Yes** (</salmonella/newport-05-14/advice-consumers.html>)

### More Information:

- [Recall & Advice to Consumers](/salmonella/newport-05-14/advice-consumers.html) (</salmonella/newport-05-14/advice-consumers.html>)
- [Signs & Symptoms](/salmonella/newport-05-14/signs-symptoms.html) (</salmonella/newport-05-14/signs-symptoms.html>)
- [Key Resources](/salmonella/newport-05-14/key-resources.html) (</salmonella/newport-05-14/key-resources.html>)

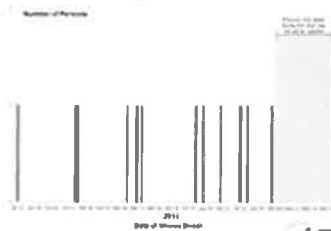
### Latest Case Count Map



[\(/salmonella/newport-05-14/map.html\)](/salmonella/newport-05-14/map.html)

[Click map to view updated & previous case count maps. \(/salmonella/newport-05-14/map.html\)](/salmonella/newport-05-14/map.html)

### Latest Epi Curve



[\(/salmonella/newport-05-14/epi.html\)](/salmonella/newport-05-14/epi.html)

[Click graph to view updated & previous epi curve graphs. \(/salmonella/newport-05-14/epi.html\)](/salmonella/newport-05-14/epi.html)

### Highlights

- **[Read the Advice to Consumers»](/salmonella/newport-05-14/advice-consumers.html)** (</salmonella/newport-05-14/advice-consumers.html>)
- A total of 12 persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Newport have been reported from 7 states.
  - The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: Arizona (1), California (2), Connecticut (1), Massachusetts (1), New York (4), Utah (1), and Wisconsin (2).

- One ill person has been hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.
- Collaborative investigation efforts of state, local, and federal public health and regulatory agencies indicate that organic sprouted chia powder distributed by Navitas Naturals of Novato, California is the likely source of this outbreak.
  - Chia powder is made from ground dried chia seeds.
- On May 28, 2014, Navitas Naturals recalled (<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm399151.htm>) <http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html>) products that contain organic sprouted chia powder due to possible *Salmonella* contamination.
  - These products have a long shelf-life and may still be in people's homes.
  - The recalled products include Navitas Naturals Organic Sprouted Chia Powder, Navitas Naturals Omega Blend Sprouted Smoothie Mix, and Williams-Sonoma Omega 3 Smoothie Mixer.
  - The recalled products are available for purchase in many retail stores and online.
- CDC recommends that consumers do not eat recalled Navitas Naturals products containing organic sprouted chia powder.

## Initial Announcement

May 29, 2014

CDC is collaborating with public health officials in several states and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate a multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Newport infections. Results from this ongoing investigation indicate that organic sprouted chia powder distributed by Navitas Naturals of Novato, California is the likely source of this outbreak. Chia powder is made from ground dried chia seeds.

Public health investigators are using the PulseNet (</pulsenet/index.html>) system to identify cases of illness that may be part of this outbreak. PulseNet, the national subtyping network of public health and food regulatory agency laboratories coordinated by CDC, obtains DNA "fingerprints" of *Salmonella* bacteria through diagnostic testing with pulsed-field gel electrophoresis, or PFGE, to identify cases of illness that may be part of this outbreak. This PFGE pattern has never been seen before in PulseNet.

A total of 12 ill persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Newport have been reported from 7 states. The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: Arizona (1), California (2), Connecticut (1), Massachusetts (1), New York (4), Utah (1), and Wisconsin (2).

Among persons for whom information is available, dates that illnesses began range from January 21, 2014 to May 5, 2014. Ill persons range in age from 4 years to 71 years, with a median age of 48 years. Fifty-eight percent of ill persons are female. Among ten ill persons with available information, one (10%) reports being hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.

This outbreak can be visually described with a chart showing the number of persons who became ill each day. This chart is called an epidemic curve or epi curve (</foodsafety/outbreaks/investigating-outbreaks/epi-curves.html>). Illnesses that occurred after May 8, 2014 might not yet be reported due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill and when the illness is reported. This takes an average of 2 to 4 weeks. The recalled products containing organic sprouted chia powder have a long shelf-life and may still be in people's homes, and illnesses may continue to be reported. Please see the Timeline for Reporting Cases of *Salmonella* Infection ([/salmonella/outbreaks/reporting\\_timeline.html](/salmonella/outbreaks/reporting_timeline.html)) for more details.

## Investigation of the Outbreak

Epidemiologic and traceback findings have linked this outbreak of *Salmonella* infections to organic sprouted chia powder distributed by Navitas Naturals.

In interviews, ill persons answered questions about food eaten and other exposures in the week before becoming ill. Seven (100%) of seven persons interviewed reported eating chia powder. Six (86%) of these seven people reported eating the Navitas Naturals organic sprouted chia powder.

On May 28, 2014, Navitas Naturals recalled (<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm399151.htm>) [☞ \(http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html) products that contain organic sprouted chia powder due to possible *Salmonella* contamination. The recalled products include Navitas Naturals Organic Sprouted Chia Powder, Navitas Naturals Omega Blend Sprouted Smoothie Mix, and Williams-Sonoma Omega 3 Smoothie Mixer. The recalled products are available for purchase in many retail stores and online.

Several samples of leftover organic sprouted chia powder from ill persons' homes and unopened packages from retail locations are being tested for the presence of *Salmonella* bacteria. Results of this testing will be released when they become available.

CDC and state and local public health partners are continuing laboratory surveillance through PulseNet to identify additional ill persons and to interview ill persons about foods eaten before becoming ill. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is continuing to work closely with CDC and state partners in this investigation.

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Content source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases \(NCEZID\)](#)

[Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases \(DFWED\)](#)

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