



Salmonella

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

Posted June 11, 2014 3:30 PM ET

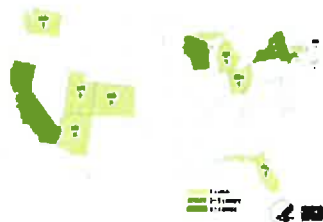
At a Glance:

- **Case Count: 21** (</salmonella/newport-05-14/epi.html>)
- **States: 12** (</salmonella/newport-05-14/map.html>)
- **Deaths: 0**
- **Hospitalizations: 2**
- **Recall: Yes** (</salmonella/newport-05-14/advice-consumers.html>)

More Information:

- [Recalls & 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)

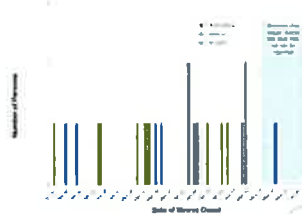
Latest Case Count Map



[\(/salmonella/newport-05-14/map.html\)](/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)**
- As of June 9, 2014, a total of 21 persons infected with the outbreak strains of *Salmonella* Newport (13 persons), *Salmonella* Hartford (6 persons), or *Salmonella* Oranienburg (2 persons) have been reported from 12 states.
 - Two ill persons have been hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.
- Two ill persons infected with a strain of *Salmonella* Oranienburg have been identified in two U.S. states.

- Through product testing and interviews with ill people, these illnesses have been combined with the *Salmonella* Newport and *Salmonella* Hartford infections previously identified as part of this investigation.
- Collaborative investigation efforts of state, local, and federal public health and regulatory agencies indicate that organic sprouted chia powder is the likely source of this outbreak.
 - Chia powder is made from ground dried chia seeds.
- On June 4, 2014, Health Matters America, Inc., recalled (<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm399894.htm>) <http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html> products that contain sprouted chia seed powder and sprouted chia/flax seed powder due to possible *Salmonella* contamination.
- On June 6, 2014, Navitas Naturals expanded (<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm400185.htm>) <http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html> their existing recall to include additional expiration dates of products containing organic sprouted chia powder.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada (<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/phn-asp/2014/salmonella-nh-053114-eng.php>) <http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html> continues to investigate similar cases of *Salmonella* infection in several Canadian provinces.
 - Several Canadian companies have recalled ([http://healthy Canadaians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/inspection/2014/39917r-eng.php](http://healthy Canadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/inspection/2014/39917r-eng.php)) <http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html> products containing sprouted chia powder or chia seeds.
- CDC recommends that consumers do not eat any of the recalled products products containing chia.
 - These products have a long shelf-life and may still be in people's homes.
 - The recalled products were available for purchase in many retail stores nationwide and online.

June 11, 2014

Case Count Update

Product testing of a sample of leftover Navitas Naturals Organic Sprouted Chia Powder collected from an ill person's home in Connecticut isolated the outbreak strains of *Salmonella* Newport and *Salmonella* Hartford, and an additional serotype, *Salmonella* Oranienburg. A search of the PulseNet database identified a total of two ill persons infected with the same strain of *Salmonella* Oranienburg in two U.S. states. This strain of *Salmonella* Oranienburg has been seen before in PulseNet, one case per month on average. Initial interviews with ill persons suggested a link to the ongoing outbreak investigation, so these illnesses have been combined with the existing *Salmonella* Newport and *Salmonella* Hartford infections previously identified.

As of June 9, 2014, a total of 21 ill persons infected with the outbreak strains of *Salmonella* Newport (13 persons), *Salmonella* Hartford (6 persons), or *Salmonella* Oranienburg (2 persons) have been reported from 12 states. The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: Arizona (1), California (3), Colorado (1), Connecticut (3), Florida (1), Massachusetts (1), Michigan (1), New York (4), Ohio (1), Utah (1), Washington (1), and Wisconsin (3).

Among persons for whom information is available, dates that illnesses began range from January 21, 2014 to May 21, 2014. Ill persons range in age from 1 year to 81 years, with a median age of 49 years. Sixty-two percent of ill persons are female. Among 15 ill persons with available information, 2 (13%) report being hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.

Illnesses that occurred after May 13, 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](http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/outbreaks/reporting_timeline.html) (http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/outbreaks/reporting_timeline.html) for more details.

Investigation Update

Epidemiologic and traceback findings have linked this outbreak of *Salmonella* infections to various brands of organic sprouted chia powder.

In interviews, ill persons are answering questions about foods eaten and other exposures in the week before becoming ill. To date, 16 (100%) of 16 persons interviewed reported eating chia seeds or powder, and 11 (73%) of 15 persons who identified the type of chia product consumed reported eating chia powder specifically.

Laboratory testing conducted by public health laboratories in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York isolated one or more of the outbreak strains from 5 samples of leftover Navitas Naturals products containing organic sprouted chia powder collected from ill persons' homes and 2 samples of unopened Navitas Naturals products containing organic sprouted chia powder collected from retail locations.

The [Public Health Agency of Canada](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/phn-asp/2014/salmonella-nh-053114-eng.php) (<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/phn-asp/2014/salmonella-nh-053114-eng.php>) [↗](http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html) (<http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html>) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency continue to investigate similar cases of *Salmonella* infection in several Canadian provinces. CDC, state, local, and Canadian 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 other partners in this investigation.

June 3, 2014

Case Count Update

Through a collaborative investigation with the [Public Health Agency of Canada](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/phn-asp/2014/salmonella-nh-053114-eng.php) (<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/phn-asp/2014/salmonella-nh-053114-eng.php>) [↗](http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html) (<http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html>) (PHAC), a total of five ill persons infected with a strain of *Salmonella* Hartford matching an outbreak strain in Canada have been identified through [PulseNet](http://www.cdc.gov/pulsenet/index.html) ([/pulsenet/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/pulsenet/index.html)) in five U.S. states. This strain of *Salmonella* Hartford has never been seen before in PulseNet. Initial interviews with ill persons suggested a link to the ongoing *Salmonella* Newport outbreak investigation in the United States. These illnesses have been combined with the existing *Salmonella* Newport infections previously identified as part of this investigation.

As of June 2, 2014, a total of 17 ill persons infected with the outbreak strains of *Salmonella* Newport (12 persons) or *Salmonella* Hartford (5 persons) have been reported from 10 states. The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: Arizona (1), California (2), Connecticut (2), Ohio (1), Florida (1), Massachusetts (1), Michigan (1), New York (4), Utah (1), and Wisconsin (3).

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 81 years, with a median age of 51 years. Sixty-five percent of ill persons are female. Among 13 ill persons with available information, two (15%) report being hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.

Illnesses that occurred after May 16, 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) for more details.

Investigation Update

Epidemiologic and traceback findings have linked this outbreak of *Salmonella* infections to various brands of organic sprouted chia powder.

In interviews, ill persons are answering questions about foods eaten and other exposures in the week before becoming ill. To date, 12 (100%) of 12 persons interviewed reported eating chia seeds or powder, and 9 (75%) of 12 persons reported eating chia powder specifically.

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. 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.

On May 30, 2014, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) notified consumers that Advantage Health Matters and Back 2 the Garden recalled (<http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/inspection/2014/39759r-eng.php>) <http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html>) various products containing sprouted chia seed powder due to possible *Salmonella* contamination. These products are sold under the brand names Organic Traditions and Back 2 the Garden and are available for purchase online by consumers in the United States.

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 are pending and will be released when they become available.

CDC, state, local, and Canadian 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 other partners in this investigation.

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 \(/pulsenet/index.html\)](/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) 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>) 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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