

Father's Day brunch sickens 16

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As many as 16 people fell ill with salmonella poisoning from raw eggs used in Father's Day weekend brunch dishes served at Tallulah's restaurant in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood, health officials said.

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As many as 16 people were likely sickened with salmonella poisoning from raw eggs used in Father's Day weekend brunch dishes served at Tallulah's restaurant in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood, health officials said Wednesday.

Victims in the June 21 outbreak ranged in ages from 4 to 71, officials with Public Health — Seattle & King County said. There were nine confirmed cases and seven probable cases of infection, including one person who was hospitalized.

The infections were traced to crab and ham eggs Benedict dishes, which typically include a sauce made from raw eggs. Managers at the restaurant at 550 19th Ave. E reported the problem to health officials after receiving complaints from customers. Restaurant staff have been cooperative with the environmental health and epidemiologic investigation, officials said.

An investigation of egg supplier and distributor Corfini Gourmet conducted by the Washington State Department of Agriculture revealed no violation of regulations regarding temperature control, storage or handling, officials said. The producer reported no recent positive tests for salmonella bacteria, although they don't routinely test raw shell eggs.

The restaurant menu was appropriately labeled to note that dishes made with raw or undercooked foods could result in foodborne illness. Owner Linda Derschang said the outbreak was a “one-time occurrence” and that no additional illnesses have been detected.

Salmonella poisoning causes symptoms that include nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, fever, chills and headache. Most healthy people recover from the infection within several days; however, young children, the elderly and those with compromised immune systems can develop serious, even life-threatening illnesses.

Representatives from Tallulah’s did not respond immediately on Wednesday to a call about the outbreak.

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