
Multistate Outbreak of *Salmonella* Virchow Infections Linked to Garden of Life RAW Meal Organic Shake & Meal Products (Final Update)

Posted April 21, 2016 1:30 PM ET

This outbreak investigation is over. However, the recalled products have a long shelf life and may still be in people's homes. Consumers unaware of the recall could continue to eat the products and potentially get sick. Read the [Recall & Advice to Consumers and Retailers](#).

Highlights

- This outbreak investigation is over. However, the recalled Garden of Life RAW Meal Organic Shake & Meal products have a long shelf life and may still be in people's homes. Consumers unaware of the recalls could continue to eat the products and get sick.
 - Consumers should not eat and retailers should not sell the recalled products. A complete list of the recalled products is available on the [Recall & Advice to Consumers and Retailers](#) page.
- CDC, multiple states, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (<http://www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm484187.htm>) (FDA) investigated this multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Virchow infections.
 - A total of 33 people infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Virchow were reported from 23 states.
 - Six ill people were hospitalized, and no deaths were reported.
- Epidemiologic and laboratory evidence indicated that RAW Meal Organic Shake & Meal products made by Garden of Life, LLC were the likely source of this outbreak.
- As a result of this investigation, Garden of Life, LLC voluntarily recalled several lots of RAW Meal Organic Shake & Meal products, available in chocolate, original, vanilla, and vanilla chai, on January 29, 2016 (http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm484027.htm?source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) (initial recall) and February 12, 2016 (<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm486234.htm>) (expanded recall).

Outbreak Summary

Introduction

CDC collaborated with public health officials in multiple states and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

(<http://www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm484187.htm>)

(FDA) to investigate a multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Virchow infections.

Public health investigators used the PulseNet system to identify illnesses that were part of this outbreak. PulseNet, coordinated by CDC, is the national subtyping network of public health and food regulatory agency laboratories. PulseNet performs DNA fingerprinting on *Salmonella* bacteria isolated from ill people by using a technique called pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE). CDC PulseNet manages a national database of these DNA fingerprints to identify possible outbreaks.

A total of 33 people infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Virchow were reported from 23 states. A list of states and the number of cases in each can be found on the Case Count Map page.

Among people for whom information was available, illnesses started on dates ranging from December 5, 2015 to March 18, 2016. Ill people ranged in age from less than 1 year to 84, with a median age of 35. Fifty-three percent of ill people were female. Among 27 ill people with available information, 6 (22%) were hospitalized, and no deaths were reported.

Investigation of the Outbreak

Epidemiologic and laboratory evidence indicated that RAW Meal Organic Shake & Meal products made by Garden of Life, LLC were the likely source of this outbreak.

State and local public health officials interviewed ill people to obtain information about foods they might have eaten and other exposures in the week before they became ill. Of the 30 ill people who were interviewed, 28 (93%) reported consuming powdered supplements or meal replacement powders in the week before illness onset; 27 of these 28 (96%) ill people specifically reported consuming RAW Meal products made by Garden of Life, LLC.

On January 29, 2016, Garden of Life, LLC voluntarily recalled (<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm484027.htm>) a limited quantity of its RAW Meal Organic Shake & Meal products available in chocolate, original, vanilla, and vanilla chai because they had the potential to be contaminated with *Salmonella* Virchow. The recalled products were available for purchase nationwide in many retail stores and online.

The Utah Public Health Laboratory and Oklahoma Public Health Laboratory isolated the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Virchow from open containers of Garden of Life RAW Meal collected from ill people's homes in Utah and Oklahoma. Both products that were tested were from lots covered under the recalls announced by Garden of Life, LLC.

FDA sampling confirmed the presence of the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Virchow in Organic Moringa Leaf powder used in RAW Meal Organic Shake & Meal Replacement products. On February 12, 2016, Garden of Life, LLC issued an expanded recall (<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm486234.htm>) of its RAW Meal Organic Shake & Meal products available in chocolate, original, vanilla, and vanilla chai to include additional lots that contained the contaminated Organic Moringa Leaf powder.

This outbreak investigation is over. However, the recalled products have a long shelf life and may still be in people's homes. Consumers unaware of the recalls could continue to eat the products and get sick. Read the [Recall and Advice to Consumers and Retailers](#).

Previous Case Count Updates

- > March 23, 2016
- > February 19, 2016
- > Initial Announcement

At A Glance

- Case Count: 33
- States: 23
- Deaths: 0
- Hospitalizations: 6
- Recall: Yes

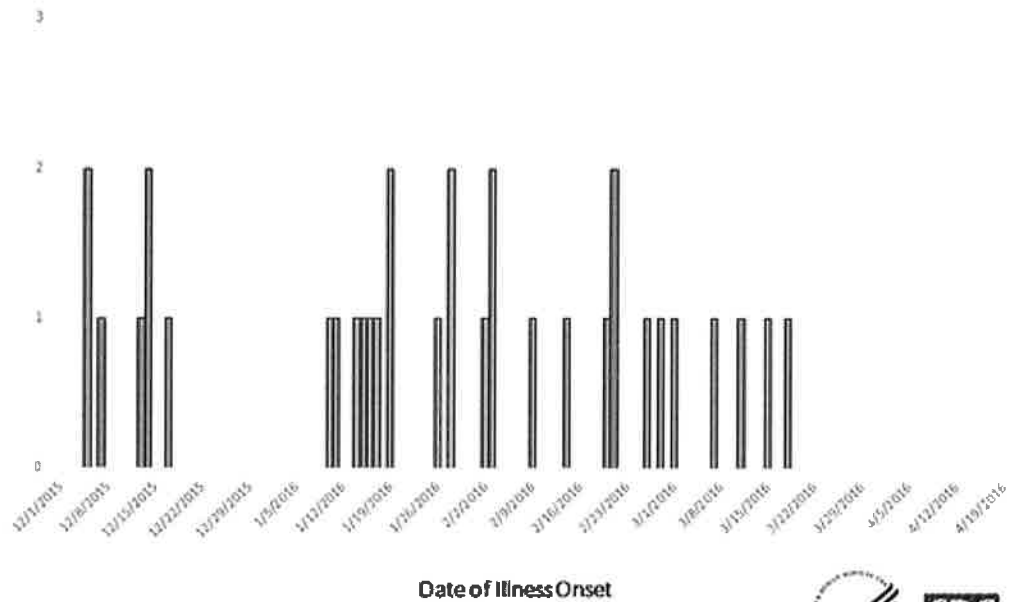


Garden of Life RAW Meal Organic Shake & Meal Product

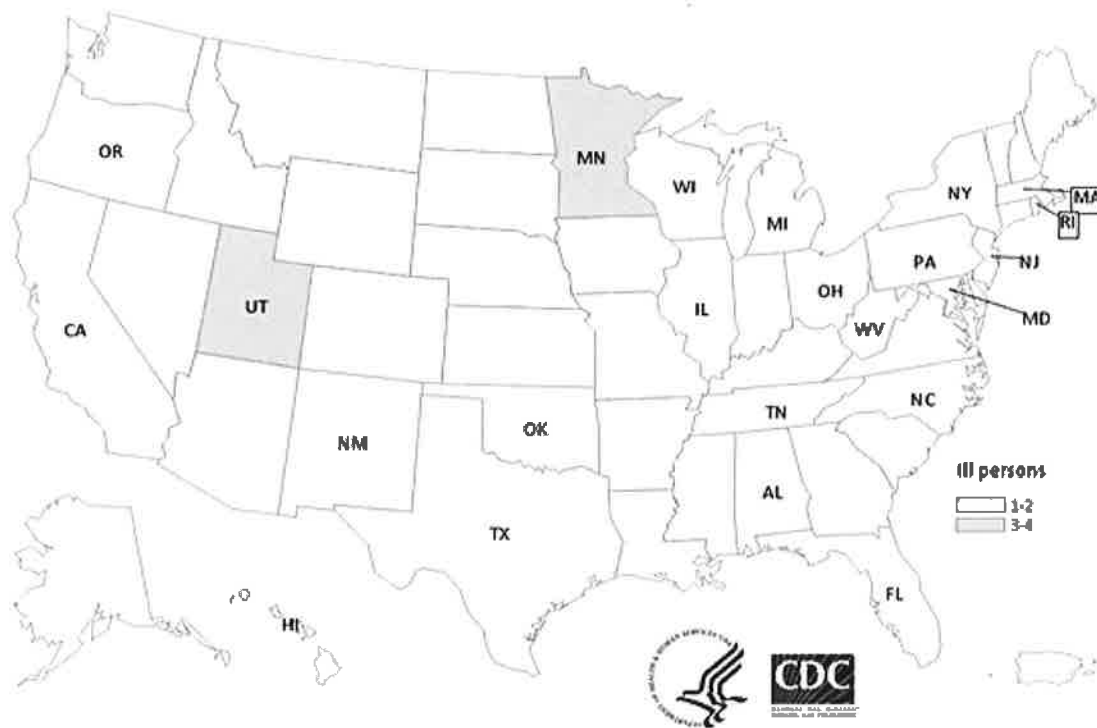
More Information

- Advice to Retailers & Consumers
- Signs & Symptoms
- Key Resources

Number of People



[CLICK TO VIEW EPI CURVE GRAPHS](#)



[CLICK TO VIEW CASE COUNT MAP](#)

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Content source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/>)

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) (</ncezid/index.html>)

Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases (DFWED) (</ncezid/dfwed/index.html>)