

WA Outbreak Report Template

SUMMARY REPORT: 1711WAJJP-1

Date of report: 2/15/18

To: CD Epi

From: Beth Melius

Subject: **Multistate Outbreak of Salmonella Newport Illnesses linked to Cut Fruit.**

SUMMARY

This outbreak consisted of 24 cases from WA (21) and OR (3). Known onset dates ranged from October 28, 2017, to December 6, 2017. Cases were 67% female and ages ranged from 1 year to 98 years old (median age: 61 years). There were six reported hospitalizations and one death, but it was not attributable to their infection.

Most cases reported purchasing cut melons from Fred Meyer and QFC grocery stores. 13/17 cases had watermelon, 10/16 had cantaloupe, and 16/18 had any cut melon (including watermelon and/or cantaloupe). WA and OR worked to trace back this melon and found that Fred Meyer and QFC were supplied by Mary's Harvest Fresh Foods. An environmental sample taken at Mary's Harvest by FDA inspectors yielded the outbreak strain and was highly related by whole genome sequencing to clinical isolates.

Cases from CO, MA, and NY were removed from this outbreak since they were unrelated by WGS. CDC continued to monitor this cluster for additional uploads and cases slowed. This cluster was closed in week 4 of 2017.

BACKGROUND

On Wednesday, November 8, 2017, CD Epi was notified by Helena Barton (WA DOH EPH) about three illnesses reported by Mason County. The ill persons included a caretaker, her daughter, and the person that is cared for. The caretaker and daughter tested positive for Salmonella and labs were sent to DOH PHL. Pre-cut melon eaten on November 1st was the suspect source of illness for the three persons per Helena. Melon was purchased at Fred Meyer in Shelton and was cut and processed from outside producer in Portland, OR. Mason County picked up two containers from Shelton Fred Meyer and held for testing. (One 10 ounce plastic clamshell of cantaloupe and one 10 ounce plastic clamshell of watermelon).

Beth Melius, WA State DOH CD Epi, led the investigation initially, and CDC led the investigation when it became a multistate outbreak.

Thursday, November 9th, Joe Graham (WA DOH EPH) notified Fred Meyer about the cluster in Mason County and the possible link to cut watermelon/cantaloupe. Joe also informed Regional FDA office about the situation since melon's processor is in Oregon.

Tuesday, November 14th PFGE results for one of the Mason County cases and two other Salmonella cases from King County are indistinguishable. Both King County cases noted pre-cut fruit. Mason County sent fruit from Shelton Fred Meyer for testing at WA PHL. RRT notified (Randy Treadwell – WSDA). Multi-state investigation initiated.

CDC and other federal partners notified.

METHODS

Epidemiologic Investigation

Describe epidemiology methods used including what kind of study design, who was interviewed and how interviews were conducted, and if cases were excluded for any reason.

Define case:

Describe how data was analyzed,

Environmental Investigation

Describe if a site visit was made and by whom, how the investigation was conducted, if clinical or environmental samples were taken and where they were submitted.

Laboratory Investigation

Salmonella isolates from WA cases were sent to WA DOH PHL and serotyping, PFGE and WGS tests were performed. All case isolates were indistinguishable by PFGE (Describe how clinical or environmental samples were taken, where submitted and test results of sampling.

RESULTS

Epidemiologic Investigation

Describe study design, percentage of symptoms experienced by ill respondents, probable incubation period and attack rates (specify for gender if applicable).

Show epidemiologic curve demonstrating onset of first symptoms experienced by cases, peak of outbreak and hypothesis of source of outbreak based on epi curve. If applicable describe locations in facility to demonstrate possible transmission patterns.

Summarize case response rates and methodology for analyzing responses (Chi-square, T-test, etc). State findings of statistically significant exposures. (include graphs of findings in this report naming them as Figures or Tables).

Environmental Investigation

Summarize findings of environmental investigation including food preparation methods if applicable, specific activities that may have contributed to the outbreak, and trace-back of items that may be implicated.

DISCUSSION

If foodborne outbreak is suspected, characterize different pathogens and their presentation of illness. Describe possible etiology of the outbreak as supported by the observed the incubation period, types of symptoms experienced by cases and results of data analysis.

Discuss methods that were suggested to prevent illnesses in this setting and follow-up activities that were conducted if applicable.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the epidemiologic and environmental investigations, develop a conclusion for what may have caused the outbreak.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Describe prevention measures that should be taken to mitigate possible spread or reoccurrence of the outbreak. List what methods were implemented in this event.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

List those participants and agencies who assisted in the outbreak.

REFERENCES