

# Multistate Outbreak of Cyclosporiasis Linked to Salads Sold at a Fast-Food Chain — United States, 2018

CDC, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and state and local public health partners are investigating an increase in reported cases of *Cyclospora* infection (cyclosporiasis).

LAST UPDATED JULY 26, 2018 5:00 PM EDT

## Highlights

### More Information

- [Cyclospora Information](#)
  - [Investigating Foodborne Outbreaks](#)
  - [Advanced Molecular Detection for Cyclospora](#)
  - [Time to Think About Cyclosporiasis](#)(Medscape)
  - CDC: [2017 Health Alert Network \(HAN\) Advisory](#) (for health-care providers)
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- On July 12, 2018, the [Iowa Department of Public Health](#) and the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) reported an increase in cases of cyclosporiasis among people who ate salads sold at McDonald's fast-food chain restaurants. CDC also has received reports of sick people who ate McDonald's salads from locations in Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.
    - *Cyclospora cayentanensis* is a single-celled parasite that causes an intestinal infection called [cyclosporiasis](#).
  - McDonald's is cooperating with the investigation and has [voluntarily stopped selling](#) salads in more than 3,000 locations in the following 14 states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.
    - Because of the proactive actions McDonald's took to remove the affected salads from the locations in these states, there likely is not ongoing risk to consumers who eat at those

### Case Count Maps

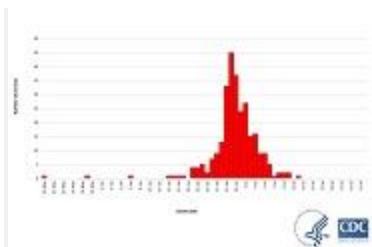


[Click map to view case count maps.](#)

McDonald's locations.

- **Important advice for consumers:**
  - If you have eaten a salad from a McDonald's restaurant in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, or Wisconsin since mid-May (on or after 5/20/2018) and you developed diarrhea, see a healthcare provider to be tested for *Cyclospora* infection and to be treated if you are sick.
  - Do not eat leftover salads from McDonald's restaurants that were purchased in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, or Wisconsin. Throw them away.
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- This investigation is ongoing. CDC will provide updates when more information is available.
- Read the related statement from the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#).
- At this time, there is no evidence to suggest that this cluster of illnesses is related to the *Cyclospora* outbreak linked to [Del Monte fresh produce vegetable trays](#).
- General advice for consumers about prevention of cyclosporiasis can be found [here](#).

## Epi Curves



[Click graph to view epi curve graphs.](#)

## Progression of the Outbreak Investigation

### July Updates expanded

#### July 26, 2018

CDC, public health and regulatory officials in several states, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are investigating a multistate outbreak of *Cyclospora* infections. At this time, there is no evidence to suggest that this cluster of illnesses is related to the *Cyclospora* outbreak linked to [Del Monte fresh produce vegetable trays](#).

As of July 26, 2018 (1pm EDT), a total of 286 laboratory-confirmed cases of *Cyclospora* infection were reported in people who consumed salads from McDonald's restaurants; the cases were reported by 15 states. Note, the Connecticut, Michigan, Tennessee, and Virginia case-patients purchased salads while traveling in Illinois; the Florida case-patient purchased a salad while traveling in Kentucky. A list of the states and the number of cases reported from each state can be found on the [Case Count Maps page](#).

Illnesses started on or after May 20, 2018. The median illness onset date is June 29, 2018 (range: May 20 to July 12). Ill people range in age from 16 to 91 years old, with a median age of 53. Sixty-seven percent (67%) are female. At least 11 people have been hospitalized; no deaths have been reported.

Illnesses that started after June 14, 2018 might not have been reported yet due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill and when the illness is reported. For *Cyclospora* infections, this can take up to six weeks.

#### July 19, 2018

CDC, public health and regulatory officials in several states, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are investigating a multistate outbreak of *Cyclospora* infections. At this time, there is no evidence to suggest that this cluster of illnesses is related to the *Cyclospora* outbreak linked to [Del Monte fresh produce vegetable trays](#).

As of July 19, 2018 (12pm EDT), a total of 163 laboratory-confirmed cases of *Cyclospora* infection were reported in people who consumed salads from McDonald's restaurants; the cases were

reported by 10 states. Note, the Florida case-patient purchased a salad while traveling in Kentucky. A list of the states and the number of cases reported from each state can be found on the [Case Count Maps page](#).

Illnesses started on or after May 1, 2018. The median illness onset date is June 28, 2018 (range: May 20 to July 10). Ill people range in age from 16 to 87 years old, with a median age of 53. Sixty-six percent (66%) are female. At least three (3) people have been hospitalized; no deaths have been reported.

Illnesses that started after June 7, 2018 might not have been reported yet due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill and when the illness is reported. For *Cyclospora* infections, this can take up to six weeks.

#### *Investigation of the Outbreak*

[Epidemiologic evidence](#) indicates that salads purchased from McDonald's restaurants are one likely source of these infections. The investigation is ongoing and FDA is working to determine the source of the ingredients used in the salads served at McDonald's. The investigation has not identified a single, common ingredient in the salads linked to illness.

State and local health departments are interviewing ill people to find out what foods they ate in the two weeks before they got sick. Many ill people reported eating salads from McDonald's restaurants located in the Midwest. People reported eating a variety of McDonald's salads.

CDC will provide more information as it becomes available.