

# Multistate Outbreak of Cyclosporiasis Linked to Fresh Express Salad Mix Sold at McDonald's Restaurants — United States, 2018

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

LAST UPDATED AUGUST 2, 2018 5:00 PM EDT

## Highlights

### ***At a Glance***

- Case Count: 395
  - States: 15
  - Deaths: 0
  - Hospitalizations: 16
  - Recall: No
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- On July 26, 2018, [FDA](#) completed analysis of an unused package of romaine lettuce and carrot mix distributed to McDonald's by the Fresh Express processor in Streamwood, IL. The analysis confirmed the presence of *Cyclospora* in that mix. On July 27, 2018, FDA informed Fresh Express of these results.
    - Fresh Express reported to FDA that the carrots in the mix went to McDonald's restaurant locations only, and that the romaine lettuce was the only ingredient in the mix that was distributed to other locations. Romaine lettuce from the same lot that was positive for *Cyclospora* was distributed in pre-made salads and wraps distributed by Caito Foods LLC of Indianapolis, IN. Fresh Express also reported that no romaine lettuce from the lot that was

### ***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)

positive for *Cyclospora* was packaged for direct retail sale to consumers.

- On July 30, 2018, The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued a [public health alert](#) about pre-made salads and wraps containing romaine lettuce that were distributed by Caito Foods LLC of Indianapolis, IN.
  - - The pre-made salads and wraps were shipped to distribution centers nationwide.
    - The pre-made salads and wraps were produced July 15 to July 18, 2018 and have a “Best By,” “Enjoy by,” “Best if Sold By,” or “Sell By” date ranging from July 18 through July 23, 2018. See the product labels [here](#).
    - The pre-made salads and wraps have establishment number “EST. 39985” or “P-39985” inside or next to the USDA mark of inspection. See the full list of products, product labels, UPC code numbers, and other identifying information [here](#).
- **Important advice for consumers:**
  - If you purchased one of these pre-made salads or wraps, and have not yet eaten it, do not eat it.

## Case Count Maps



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

Throw it away or return it to the place of purchase.

- If you have eaten one of these pre-made salads or wraps and you developed diarrhea, see a healthcare provider to be tested for *Cyclospora* infection and to be treated if you are sick.

- This investigation is ongoing. CDC will provide updates when more information is available.
- 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

### August Updates expanded

August 2, 2018

CDC, public health and regulatory officials in several states, and the FDA 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 August 2, 2018 (12pm EDT), a total of 395 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, 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 20). Ill people range in age from 14 to 91 years old, with a median age of 53. Sixty-six percent (66%) are female. At least 16 people have been hospitalized; no deaths have been reported.

Illnesses that started after June 21, 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 sources of the ingredients that were in common to the salads served at McDonald's.

CDC will provide more information as it becomes available.

## August 1, 2018

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Consumers who purchased one of these pre-made salads or wraps and have not eaten it should not eat it. They should throw it away or return it to the place of purchase. Consumers who have eaten one of these pre-made salads or wraps and developed diarrhea should see a healthcare provider to be tested for *Cyclospora* infection and to be treated if they are sick.

The investigation is ongoing. CDC will provide more information as it becomes available.