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Outbreak of *Salmonella* Infections Associated with Indian Taco Dinner in Highland

Fourteen Kansas residents have tested positive for *Salmonella*

TOPEKA – The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and Doniphan County Health Department continue to investigate an outbreak associated with an election day Indian Taco Dinner at the Highland United Methodist Presbyterian Church in Highland, Kansas on August 7, 2018.

A survey was launched on August 10, 2018 to collect illness and exposure information from those that attended the dinner. As of August 31, 2018, 115 persons have completed the survey, 69 have reported gastrointestinal illnesses, and 14 have tested positive for *Salmonella* Newport. These numbers are preliminary. Testing of food that was served at the dinner has been completed and all tested negative for *Salmonella* except for a sample of tomatoes that tested positive for the same strain of *Salmonella* Newport. Tomatoes were provided by multiple people so an environmental assessment of the sources of tomatoes is planned to potentially determine how this contamination occurred. In addition, KDHE is assessing whether other persons that did not attend the taco dinner could have been sickened from consuming these tomatoes.

For questions about this investigation please call the Doniphan County Health Department at 785-985-3591 or the KDHE Epidemiology Hotline at 877-427-7317.

For more information on *Salmonella* infections visit <https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/>.

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