

## Outbreak of *Salmonella* Infections Linked to Ground Beef



# Food Safety Alert

Posted December 4, 2018 at 4:30 PM ET

**CDC, public health and regulatory officials in several states, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service are investigating a multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Newport infections linked to ground beef produced by JBS Tolleson, Inc.**

Advice to Consumers, Restaurants, and Retailers

### At A Glance

- [Reported Cases](#): 246
  - [States](#): 25
  - Hospitalizations: 59
  - Deaths: 0
  - Recall: Yes
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- Do not eat, serve, or sell recalled beef products, including ground beef, that were recalled by JBS Tolleson, Inc., of Tolleson, Arizona, because they may be contaminated with *Salmonella*. The company [recalled](#) 6.9 million pounds of beef products on Oct. 4, 2018, and then [recalled](#) an additional 5.2 million pounds of beef products on Dec. 4, 2018.
    - Recalled beef products were produced and packaged from July 26, 2018, to September 7, 2018 and were shipped to retailers nationwide under many brand names.
    - Check your freezer for recalled beef. Look for beef labeled with the establishment number "EST. 267." This is usually found inside the USDA mark of inspection, but can be elsewhere on the package.
    - More than 100 retailers, including chain retail locations and local stores, sold the recalled beef. Stores are listed by state, in alphabetical order.
    - Visit the USDA-FSIS website for a [list of stores and states where the recalled beef products were sold](#)[PDF - 322 KB].
  - Return recalled beef to the store or throw it away.

- Consumers with questions about the recall can call the JBS USA Consumer Hotline at (800) 727-2333.
- Contact a healthcare provider if you think you got sick from eating recalled ground beef.
- In general, consumers and restaurants should always [handle and cook ground beef safely](#) to help prevent foodborne illness. It is important to cook ground beef thoroughly.
- Restaurants and retailers should check food storage and freezers for recalled beef products and should not serve or sell them.
  - If possible, retailers who received recalled beef products should contact their customers to alert them to the recall.

## Latest Outbreak Information

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- An additional 126 ill people from 13 states were included in this investigation since the last update on October 23, 2018. Three more states reported ill people: Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Missouri.
- As of November 15, 2018, 246 people infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Newport have been reported from 25 states.
  - Illnesses started on dates ranging from August 5, 2018 to October 16, 2018.
  - Fifty-nine people have been hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.
- [Epidemiologic, laboratory, and traceback evidence](#) indicates that ground beef produced by JBS Tolleson, Inc. is a likely source of this outbreak.
- On October 4, 2018, JBS Tolleson, Inc. [recalled](#) approximately 6.9 million pounds of beef products that may be contaminated with *Salmonella* Newport. On December 4, 2018, JBS Tolleson, Inc. [recalled](#) an additional 5.2 million pounds of beef products.
- This investigation is ongoing, and CDC will provide updates when more information is available.

## Food Safety and Ground Beef

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- In general, consumers and restaurants should always [handle and cook ground beef safely](#) to avoid foodborne illness. It is important to handle and prepare all ground beef products carefully.
  - Don't eat raw or undercooked ground beef.
  - Cook ground beef hamburgers and mixtures such as meatloaf to 160°F internal temperature. Use a food thermometer to make sure the meat has reached a safe internal temperature. You can't tell whether meat is safely cooked by looking at it.

- Ask that ground beef hamburgers and mixtures be cooked to 160°F internal temperature when ordering at a restaurant.
- Wash hands and items that came into contact with raw ground beef—including countertops, utensils, dishes, and cutting boards—with soap and water.

## Symptoms of *Salmonella* Infection

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- Most people infected with *Salmonella* develop diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps 12 to 72 hours after being exposed to the bacteria.
- The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days, and most people recover without treatment.
- In some people, the diarrhea may be so severe that the patient needs to be hospitalized. *Salmonella* infection may spread from the intestines to the bloodstream and then to other places in the body.
- Children younger than 5 years, adults older than 65 years, and people with weakened immune systems are more likely to have a severe illness.

## Investigation Details

### November 15, 2018

Since the last update on October 23, 2018, 126 more ill people have been added to this investigation.

As of November 15, 2018, 246 people infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Newport have been reported from 25 states. A list of the states and the number of cases in each can be found on the [Map of Reported Cases page](#).

Illnesses started on dates ranging from [August 5, 2018 to October 16, 2018](#). Ill people range in age from less than one year to 88, with a median age of 38. Fifty-six percent are male. Of 168 people with information available, 59 (35%) have been hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.

Illnesses might not yet be reported due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill and when the illness is reported. This takes an average of 2 to 4 weeks. Please see the [Timeline for Reporting Cases of \*Salmonella\* Infection](#) for more details.

[Whole genome sequencing](#) analysis did not identify predicted antibiotic resistance in 180 *Salmonella* bacteria isolates from 176 ill people and four food samples. Testing of seven outbreak isolates using standard [antibiotic susceptibility testing](#) by CDC's [National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System \(NARMS\)](#) laboratory confirmed these results.

State and local health departments continue to ask ill people [questions about the foods they ate and other exposures](#) in the week before they became ill. Of 137 people interviewed, 123 (90%) reported eating ground beef at home. This percentage is significantly higher than results from a [survey](#)[PDF – 787 KB] of healthy people in which 40% of respondents reported eating any ground beef at home in the week before they were interviewed.

Officials in Arizona collected an unopened package of ground beef from an ill person's home. The outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Newport was identified in the ground beef. Whole genome sequencing showed that the *Salmonella* identified in the ground beef was closely related genetically to the *Salmonella* in samples from ill people. The ground beef was one of the products recalled on October 4, 2018.

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