

Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* outbreak associated with I Love Sushi and Sodexo's Café Mario

- **Cases:** 4
- **Hospitalizations:** 1
- **Deaths:** 0
- **Status:** Investigation is ongoing
- **Locations (2):** I Love Sushi and Sodexo's Café Mario, both located at Nintendo of America, 4600 150th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052
- **Meal dates:** Multiple meals during June 18–22, 2018
- **Prior food safety inspections and current rating?**
 - I Love Sushi: [GOOD](#)
 - Café Mario: [EXCELLENT](#)

Highlights

Updated July 6, 2018

Summary

Public Health is investigating an outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) associated with I Love Sushi and Sodexo's Café Mario at Nintendo of America campus in Redmond. Café Mario is operated by Sodexo and is not open to the public. At this time, the source of the illnesses has not been identified.

Illnesses

Since July 2, 2018, we have learned that four people (two King and two Snohomish County residents) have tested positive for STEC. All four consumed food from Café Mario in King County and work at the Nintendo of America campus in Redmond. Symptoms included abdominal cramps and bloody diarrhea. Illness onsets occurred during June 25–28, 2018. The four ill people consumed food from Café Mario on multiple days during June 18–22, 2018; one ill person also ate at I Love Sushi on June 19 and June 26, 2018, which is a food establishment that operates out of Café Mario once a week.

Public Health actions

On July 3, 2018, Public Health – Seattle & King County Environmental Health investigators visited Café Mario. Inspections were completed for both Café Mario and I Love Sushi.

At Café Mario, potential risk factors were identified and corrective actions discussed with Café Mario's management, including inadequate hand washing practices and improper cold holding temperatures of food. At I Love Sushi, potential risk factors were also identified and discussed, including improper temperature storage of foods. Both restaurants were not open on July 4 due to it being a holiday.

On July 5, 2018, investigators closed Café Mario and the onsite I Love Sushi food services. Both restaurants will remain closed until approved to reopen by Public Health. Both food establishments will be required to complete a thorough cleaning and

disinfection before reopening. Remaining food products are being held and environmental swabs were collected for laboratory testing. We are currently investigating whether any employees of these restaurants had a recent diarrheal illness. Investigators also reviewed with Café Mario's management the Washington State Retail Food Code requirement that staff are not allowed to work while having vomiting or diarrhea.

Laboratory testing

Three of the four people who got sick tested positive for STEC by a healthcare provider. Further testing at the Washington State Public Health Laboratory is pending, including determining the genetic fingerprint and specific strain of STEC that caused the illnesses.

Public Health message

This investigation is ongoing and we will provide more information as it becomes available.

STEC can cause serious illness. Anyone who ate at Café Mario and I Love Sushi at Nintendo of America during June 11, 2018 to July 5, 2018, and developed diarrhea (especially bloody diarrhea) within 10 days, should consult with their healthcare provider promptly to determine if testing is necessary.