UPDATE: Investigation of Salmonella Bareilly Outbreak

The City of Milwaukee Health Department has continued collaborating with state and national public health agencies to investigate a multi-state outbreak of Salmonella serotype Bareilly infections. City of Milwaukee Health Department staff are supporting the national investigation by interviewing patients regarding their food history and other exposures, and collecting information to aid in the national effort to identify the source or sources of this outbreak.

Since our last update on April 5, 2012, 5 new cases of Salmonella Bareilly infection matching the outbreak strain had been reported among Wisconsin residents bringing the total cases in Wisconsin to 14 since February. Two of these new cases are among Milwaukee county residents, bringing the county’s total to 6 cases. The City of Milwaukee case count remains at one case.

Today, the FDA released new information regarding affected food products related to the Salmonella outbreak: http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm300397.htm. Consumers and retailers with questions can contact the FDA Safe Food Hot line at 1-888-SAFEFOOD (1-888-723-3366). Updated information on this outbreak is also available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at: http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/bareilly-04-12/index.html.

Most persons infected with Salmonella develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12–72 hours after infection. Infection is usually diagnosed by culture of a stool sample. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days, but severe infections may occur. Infants, elderly persons, and those with impaired immune systems are more likely than others to develop severe illness.

Although most people recover without treatment, anyone experiencing symptoms of salmonella (diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps) within 72 hours of eating affected food products, or persons who think they might have become ill from eating a potentially contaminated food product, should consult their health care providers, both to guard against severe illness, and to assist in the investigation of this outbreak.

Further updates will be provided to the public as more information becomes available.

As always, careful hand-washing after using the bathroom and before and after food preparation is strongly recommended.