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First Salmonella Case Linked to Multi-state Outbreak Reported to City of Milwaukee Health Department

Health Officials to continue spot checks to ensure affected peanut products are off store shelves

The City of Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory has confirmed its first case in a nationwide outbreak of salmonella linked to contaminated peanuts produced at a Georgia plant. This case represents the fourth reported in Wisconsin.

“We are working closely with the State of Wisconsin Division of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention during our investigation of this case,” said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker.

“We will also continue to monitor local grocery stores and institutional settings such as school cafeterias to ensure that peanut butter and peanut containing products affected by the recall have been removed from shelves,” he said.

The MHD has also sent alerts to healthcare providers regarding diagnosis, testing and reporting of suspect cases.

Salmonellosis a bacterial disease that results in mild to severe diarrhea, cramping, fever and occasional vomiting that can last for several days. Symptoms can appear within 12-72 hours after exposure. The illness is usually self resolving and does not require antibiotic treatment. Persons at risk for severe illness are young children, the elderly and immunosuppressed individuals.

Good hygiene is essential in limiting the spread of disease.

At least 575 people in 43 states have been sickened by the bacteria, according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention and Food and Drug Administration. Approximately 20% of the reported cases have been hospitalized and 8 deaths are thought to be attributed to the outbreak.

As of February 5th, the FDA had listed over 1500 products including cakes, cookies, ice-cream and candy that have been voluntarily recalled by manufacturers as a result of the outbreak and at urging of public health officials. Major brands of jarred peanut butter found in grocery stores have not been affected by the recall.

Individuals who have doubts about the products they may consume should err on the side of safety and throw them out.

Further information is available on the MHD website at www.milwaukee.gov/health or by calling 286-3616.

Think Health. Act Now!