

Multistate Outbreaks of Human *Salmonella* Infections Linked to Live Poultry in Backyard Flocks, 2017 (Final Update)

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These outbreak investigations are over. However, people can still get a *Salmonella* infection from live poultry, including those in backyard flocks. Read [more information about *Salmonella* from live poultry](#) and how people can reduce the chance they or their children will get an infection.

Outbreak Summary

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|-------------------------|
| 1120 |
| Cases |
| 48 |
| States |
| 249 |
| Hospitalizations |
| 1 |
| Death |

- This year saw the largest number of illnesses linked to contact with backyard poultry ever recorded by CDC. Contact with live poultry or their environment can make people sick with *Salmonella* infections. Live poultry such as chickens and ducks can be carrying *Salmonella* bacteria but appear healthy and clean, with no sign of illness.
 - As raising backyard flocks becomes more popular, more people are having contact with chickens and ducks – and may not know about the risk of *Salmonella* infection.
- These outbreaks are a reminder to follow steps to keep your family healthy while enjoying your backyard flock.
 - Always wash hands thoroughly with soap and water right after touching live poultry or anything in the area where the birds live and roam.
 - Adults should supervise handwashing for children.
 - Do not let live poultry inside the house.
 - Do not let children younger than 5 years handle or touch chicks, ducklings, or other live poultry without adult supervision.
- In 2017, CDC and multiple states investigated 10 separate multistate outbreaks of *Salmonella* infections in people who had contact with live poultry in backyard flocks.

- The outbreak strains of *Salmonella* infected a reported 1120 people in 48 states and the District of Columbia
- Illnesses started on dates ranging from January 4, 2017 to September 22, 2017.
- 249 ill people were hospitalized. One death was reported from North Carolina.
- Epidemiologic, traceback, and laboratory findings linked the 10 outbreaks to contact with live poultry, such as chicks and ducklings, from multiple hatcheries.
 - In interviews, 542 (70%) of 774 ill people reported contact with live poultry in the week before illness started.
- The outbreaks were caused by *Salmonella* bacteria with several DNA fingerprints : *Salmonella* Braenderup, *Salmonella* Enteritidis, *Salmonella* Hadar, *Salmonella* I 4,[5],12:i-, *Salmonella* Indiana, *Salmonella* Infantis, *Salmonella* Litchfield, *Salmonella* Mbandaka, *Salmonella* Muenchen, and *Salmonella* Typhimurium.