



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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Salmonella

Multistate Outbreak of Human *Salmonella* Montevideo Infections Linked to Live Poultry

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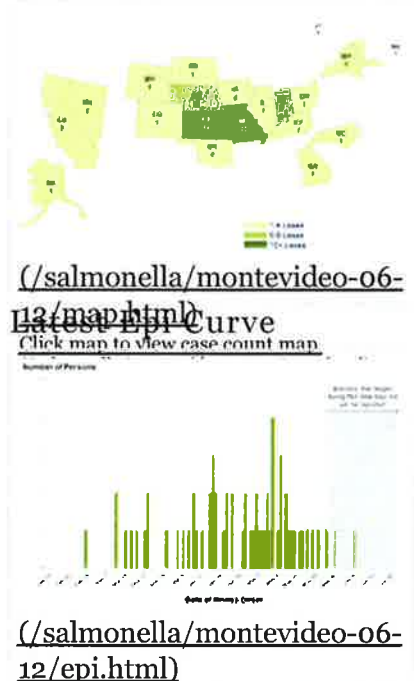
At a Glance:

- **Case Count: 66** (</salmonella/montevideo-06-12/epi.html>)
- **States: 20** (</salmonella/montevideo-06-12/map.html>)
- **Deaths: 1**
- **Hospitalizations: 16**

More Information:

- [Advice to Consumers](/salmonella/montevideo-06-12/advice-consumers.html) (</salmonella/montevideo-06-12/advice-consumers.html>)
- [Key Resources](/salmonella/montevideo-06-12/key-resources.html) (</salmonella/montevideo-06-12/key-resources.html>)


Latest Case Count Map



[Click graph to view epi curve graph.](/salmonella/montevideo-06-12/epi.html)
[\(/salmonella/montevideo-06-12/epi.html\)](/salmonella/montevideo-06-12/epi.html)

Highlights

- **Read the Advice to Consumers »** (</salmonella/montevideo-06-12/advice-consumers.html>)
- A total of 66 persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Montevideo have been reported from 20 states.

- The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: Alaska (1), California (2), Colorado (1), Georgia (1), Illinois (1), Indiana (8), Iowa (2), Kansas (10), Kentucky (1), Massachusetts (1), Missouri (22), Nebraska (5), Nevada (1), New York (1), North Carolina (1), Ohio (1), Oklahoma (4), South Dakota (1), Vermont (1), and Wyoming (1).
- 16 ill persons have been hospitalized. One death was reported in Missouri, but *Salmonella* infection was not considered a contributing factor in this person's death.
- 35% of ill persons are children 10 years of age or younger.
- Epidemiologic, laboratory, and traceback findings have linked this outbreak of human *Salmonella* infections to contact with chicks, ducklings, and other live baby poultry from Estes Hatchery in Springfield, Missouri.
- Mail-order hatcheries, agricultural feed stores, and others that sell or display chicks, ducklings, and other live poultry should provide health-related information  [PDF - 1 page] (</healthypets/resources/salmonella-baby-poultry.pdf>) to owners and potential purchasers of these birds prior to the point of purchase. This should include information about the risk of acquiring a *Salmonella* infection from contact with live poultry.



Initial Announcement

June 25, 2012

CDC is collaborating with public health and agriculture officials in many states and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, National Poultry Improvement Plan, and Veterinary Services to investigate an outbreak of human *Salmonella* Montevideo infections linked to chicks and ducklings from Estes Hatchery in Springfield, Missouri. Public health investigators are using the PulseNet (</pulsenet/>) system to identify cases of illness that may be part of this outbreak. In PulseNet, the national subtyping network of public health and food regulatory agency laboratories coordinated by CDC, DNA "fingerprints" of *Salmonella* bacteria are obtained through diagnostic testing with pulsed-field gel electrophoresis, or PFGE, to identify cases of illness that may be part of this outbreak.

This outbreak can be visually described with a chart showing the number of persons who became ill each day. This chart is called an epidemic curve or epi curve (</salmonella/montevideo-06-12/epi.html>). Illnesses that occurred after May 29, 2012 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 3 weeks. Please see the *Salmonella* (/salmonella/outbreaks/reporting_timeline.html) Outbreak Investigations: Timeline for Reporting Cases (/salmonella/outbreaks/reporting_timeline.html) for more details.

Contact with live poultry can be a source of human *Salmonella* infections. You should always wash hands thoroughly with soap and water right after touching live poultry or anything in the area where they live and roam. Adults should supervise hand washing for young children. Additional recommendations are available (</Features/SalmonellaBabyBirds/>).

Mail-order hatcheries, agricultural feed stores, and others who sell or display chicks, ducklings  [PDF - 1 page] and other live poultry should provide health-related information  page] (</healthypets/resources/salmonella-baby-poultry.pdf>) to owners and potential purchasers of these birds prior to the point of purchase. This should include information about the risk of acquiring a *Salmonella* infection from contact with live poultry.

Investigation of the Outbreak

As of June 21, 2012, a total of 66 persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Montevideo have been reported from 20 states. The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: Alaska (1), California (2), Colorado (1), Georgia (1), Illinois (1), Indiana (8), Iowa (2), Kansas (10), Kentucky (1), Massachusetts (1), Missouri (22), Nebraska (5), Nevada (1), New York (1), North Carolina (1), Ohio (1), Oklahoma (4), South Dakota (1), Vermont (1), and Wyoming (1).

Among the persons who reported the date they became ill, illnesses began between February 28, 2012 and June 6, 2012. Infected individuals range in age from less than one year old to 83 years old, and 35% of ill persons are 10 years of age or younger. Forty-six percent of ill persons are female. Among 43 ill persons with available information, 16 (37%) have been hospitalized. One death was reported in Missouri, but *Salmonella* infection was not considered a contributing factor in this person's death.

In interviews, ill persons answered questions about contact with animals and foods consumed during the week before becoming ill. Thirty-nine (85%) of 46 ill persons interviewed reported contact with live poultry (*e.g.*, chicks, chickens, ducks, ducklings, turkeys) before becoming ill. Of ill persons with live poultry contact, 38 (97%) reported contact with chicks or ducklings or both. Thirty (83%) of 36 ill persons with available purchase information reported purchasing live baby poultry from various locations of 13 different agricultural feed store companies in multiple states. Additionally, 5 (14%) reported purchasing baby poultry directly from mail-order hatcheries. Because the potential for *Salmonella* infection exists wherever these live baby poultry are sold, and not just at one feed store, CDC's recommendations apply wherever these poultry are sold. Ill persons reported purchasing live poultry for backyard flocks to produce eggs or meat, or to keep as pets.

State health departments have tested chick samples collected from ill persons' homes. Four samples from different homes in California, Kentucky, Missouri, and Vermont yielded the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Montevideo.

Findings of multiple traceback investigations of live baby poultry from homes of ill persons have identified Estes Hatchery in Springfield, Missouri as the source of chicks and ducklings. The owners of the mail-order hatchery are cooperating with public health and agriculture officials.

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