



[Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#80]

Snapshot

1. **Tomato scare may be mistake: Health officials say other foods could be the source of US salmonella outbreak [they increasingly suspect jalapeno peppers, cilantro or some other food commonly found in Mexican restaurants]**
2. **CDC Update: 851 Illnesses in 36 States & DC [Update for June 30, 2008 - Case count information as of 9 pm EST, June 29, 2008]**

Tomato scare may be mistake: Health officials say other foods could be the source of US salmonella outbreak

Jul 01, 2008 (The Baltimore Sun - McClatchy-Tribune Information Services via COMTEX) -- **A growing number of health officials fear that investigators made a terrible mistake in blaming tomatoes for the sickening of more than 800 Americans, and they increasingly suspect jalapeno peppers, cilantro or some other food commonly found in Mexican restaurants, health officials involved in the investigation say.**

Admission of a mistake, after consumers across the country shunned tomatoes and the food industry lost up to \$250 million, could deepen criticism of a government food safety system that has been attacked for failing to prevent illnesses and deaths resulting from the contamination of a string of products, including peanut butter and bagged spinach, in recent years.

"It's bad, and I think everyone will be very apologetic" if it turns out tomatoes weren't the source, said Tim Jones, Tennessee's state epidemiologist, describing himself as "increasingly concerned" about whether tomatoes are to blame.

Investigators began retracing their steps last week, reinterviewing victims and revisiting restaurants, according to officials in five states.

Investigators are broadening their questioning of those who became sick recently, because no one has yet found a tainted tomato.

"The current leading suspect -- tomatoes -- may not tell the full story," said Mike Landen, deputy state epidemiologist in New Mexico.

Other health officials said investigators could establish a different cause for the outbreak as early as this week.

If contaminated tomatoes are not the source, health officials worry about the possible recriminations for officials of the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and state health departments. Consumers avoided tomatoes, restaurants emptied shelves and suppliers destroyed their stocks after the FDA issued a nationwide warning in early June.

"At this point, the investigation is moving toward critical answers. It wasn't doing that three weeks ago," said Michael Osterholm, an infectious diseases specialist at the University of Minnesota who advises federal and state health departments on food-borne outbreaks.

Investigators are looking at produce used frequently in salsa, guacamole and similar dishes because most of the roughly 20 clusters of those who became ill ate at Mexican restaurants, health officials said. Tomatoes are widely used in the dishes, which health officials say would explain their strong association with the outbreak and the early

thinking that they were to blame.

Health officials fear that investigators from New Mexico and Texas, which led the early probe, might have made the basic mistake of failing to account for foods that are often eaten with tomatoes before identifying tomatoes as the likely salmonella source in late May.

Texas and New Mexico health officials say that all signs pointed to tomatoes and that they preferred to "err on the side of safety" to protect public health. Now, investigators in those states are looking at whether peppers, cilantro or other ingredients in salsa and guacamole might be responsible for the outbreak, though the federal government is still warning consumers to avoid certain tomatoes.

Mistakes in identifying the roots of food-borne illness are rare. In 1996, investigators initially identified California strawberries as the source of a Cyclospora outbreak that turned out to have been caused by Guatemalan raspberries. Last year, Taco Bell banned green onions during an E. coli outbreak that was later determined to have been the result of tainted lettuce.

"We're certainly still looking at the possibility that illnesses are associated with tomatoes, but we're also looking for other common foods and ingredients, including salsa, guacamole, other produce and other items," David Blythe, Maryland's state epidemiologist, said in a statement.

CDC Update: 851 Illnesses in 36 States & DC [Update for June 30, 2008 - Case count information as of 9 pm EST, June 29, 2008]

Since April, 851 persons infected with Salmonella Saintpaul with the same genetic fingerprint have been identified in 36 states and the District of Columbia. These were identified because clinical laboratories in all states send Salmonella strains from ill persons to their State public health laboratory for characterization. The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: Arkansas (10 persons), Arizona (39), California (10), Colorado (11), Connecticut (4), Florida (1), Georgia (18), Idaho (3), Illinois (91), Indiana (11), Kansas (14), Kentucky (1), Maine (1), Maryland (29), Massachusetts (21), Michigan (6), Minnesota (2), Missouri (12), New Hampshire (3), Nevada (4), New Jersey (4), New Mexico (90), New York (26), North Carolina (5), Ohio (6), Oklahoma (19), Oregon (10), Pennsylvania (8), Rhode Island (3), Tennessee (6), Texas (346), Utah (2), Virginia (22), Vermont (2), Washington (4), Wisconsin (6), and the District of Columbia (1).

End of Snapshot – Full Text Follows

Tomato scare may be mistake: Health officials say other foods could be the source of US salmonella outbreak

(McClatchy-Tribune Information Services)(Comtex 07/01 05:37:06)

Jul 01, 2008 (The Baltimore Sun - McClatchy-Tribune Information Services via COMTEX) -- A growing number of health officials fear that investigators made a terrible mistake in blaming tomatoes for the sickening of more than 800 Americans, and they increasingly suspect jalapeno peppers, cilantro or some other food commonly found in Mexican restaurants, health officials involved in the investigation say.

The salmonella outbreak should be petering out if contaminated tomatoes were the cause, because tomatoes have a limited shelf life and many consumers have been avoiding them. Yet, the number of reported cases has continued to grow, and investigators have failed to identify the source.

Admission of a mistake, after consumers across the country shunned tomatoes and the food industry lost up to \$250 million, could deepen criticism of a government food safety system that has been attacked for failing to prevent illnesses and deaths resulting from the contamination of a string of products, including peanut butter and bagged spinach, in recent years.

"It's bad, and I think everyone will be very apologetic" if it turns out tomatoes weren't the source, said Tim Jones, Tennessee's state epidemiologist, describing himself as "increasingly concerned" about whether tomatoes are to blame.

Failure to find the culprit, a month after authorities warned the nation, reflects the difficulty of tracing the source of microscopic bacteria in widely used food. It also underscores the weaknesses in a government safety net that critics say relies on short-staffed state health departments and turf-conscious federal authorities.

It could still turn out that tainted tomatoes caused the Salmonella saintpaul outbreak, believed to be the largest ever tracked in this country, with 810 people confirmed sick, including 25 in Maryland, as of last week.

On Friday, federal health officials said that investigators continued to find a strong association between tomatoes and the most recent confirmed illnesses. The officials said they were "keeping an open mind" about other possible sources, but other health officials said the hunt for alternate suspects is under way.

Investigators began retracing their steps last week, reinterviewing victims and revisiting restaurants, according to officials in five states.

Investigators are broadening their questioning of those who became sick recently, because no one has yet found a tainted tomato.

"The current leading suspect -- tomatoes -- may not tell the full story,"

said Mike Landen, deputy state epidemiologist in New Mexico.

Other health officials said investigators could establish a different cause for the outbreak as early as this week.

If contaminated tomatoes are not the source, health officials worry about the possible recriminations for officials of the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and state health departments. Consumers avoided tomatoes, restaurants emptied shelves and suppliers destroyed their stocks after the FDA issued a nationwide warning in early June.

The tomato industry probably will demand government reforms, said Jim Prevor, editor of Produce Business, a trade magazine that estimates that tomato farmers and distributors could lose \$250 million in lost sales and destroyed supplies.

"The produce industry will insist on congressional hearings -- that there will be a real investigation into how this was conducted," Prevor said. "This is a real disaster."

Even before its focus on tomatoes was questioned, the investigation was criticized by food specialists and industry observers because of delays and confusion in finding the source of the outbreak. Critics questioned investigators' methods and attacked a public health system that relies on state health departments of varying quality and federal health agencies unwilling to share information.

Health officials defended their investigation, saying that tainted tomatoes are especially difficult to trace because they do not carry bar codes and are often resold after being mixed with other produce.

"At this point, the investigation is moving toward critical answers. It wasn't doing that three weeks ago," said Michael Osterholm, an infectious diseases specialist at the University of Minnesota who advises federal and state health departments on food-borne outbreaks.

Investigators are looking at produce used frequently in salsa, guacamole and similar dishes because most of the roughly 20 clusters of those who became ill ate at Mexican restaurants, health officials said. Tomatoes are widely used in the dishes, which health officials say would explain their strong association with the outbreak and the early thinking that they were to blame.

Health officials fear that investigators from New Mexico and Texas, which led the early probe, might have made the basic mistake of failing to account for foods that are often eaten with tomatoes before identifying tomatoes as the likely salmonella source in late May.

Texas and New Mexico health officials say that all signs pointed to tomatoes and that they preferred to "err on the side of safety" to protect public health. Now, investigators in those states are looking at whether peppers, cilantro or other

ingredients in salsa and guacamole might be responsible for the outbreak, though the federal government is still warning consumers to avoid certain tomatoes.

Mistakes in identifying the roots of food-borne illness are rare. In 1996, investigators initially identified California strawberries as the source of a Cyclospora outbreak that turned out to have been caused by Guatemalan raspberries. Last year, Taco Bell banned green onions during an E. coli outbreak that was later determined to have been the result of tainted lettuce.

"We're certainly still looking at the possibility that illnesses are associated with tomatoes, but we're also looking for other common foods and ingredients, including salsa, guacamole, other produce and other items," David Blythe, Maryland's state epidemiologist, said in a statement.

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CDC: Investigation of Outbreak of Infections Caused by Salmonella Saintpaul

***Persons infected with the outbreak strain of Salmonella Saintpaul, United States, by state, as of 9pm EST June 29, 2008
Update for June 30, 2008 - Case count information as of 9 pm EST, June 29, 2008***

CDC is collaborating with public health officials in many states, the Indian Health Service, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate an ongoing multi-state outbreak of human Salmonella serotype Saintpaul infections. An initial epidemiologic investigation comparing foods eaten by ill and well persons identified consumption of raw tomatoes as strongly linked to illness. Recently, many clusters of illnesses have been identified in Texas and other states among persons who ate at restaurants. These clusters have led us to broaden the investigation to be sure that it encompasses food items that are commonly consumed with tomatoes.

Since April, 851 persons infected with Salmonella Saintpaul with the same genetic fingerprint have been identified in 36 states and the District of Columbia. These were identified because clinical laboratories in all states send Salmonella strains from ill persons to their State public health laboratory for characterization. The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: Arkansas (10 persons), Arizona (39), California (10), Colorado (11), Connecticut (4), Florida (1), Georgia (18), Idaho (3), Illinois (91), Indiana (11), Kansas (14), Kentucky (1), Maine (1), Maryland (29), Massachusetts (21), Michigan (6), Minnesota (2), Missouri (12), New Hampshire (3), Nevada (4), New Jersey (4), New Mexico (90), New York (26), North Carolina (5), Ohio (6), Oklahoma (19), Oregon (10), Pennsylvania (8), Rhode Island (3), Tennessee (6), Texas (346), Utah (2), Virginia (22), Vermont (2), Washington (4), Wisconsin (6), and the District of Columbia (1).

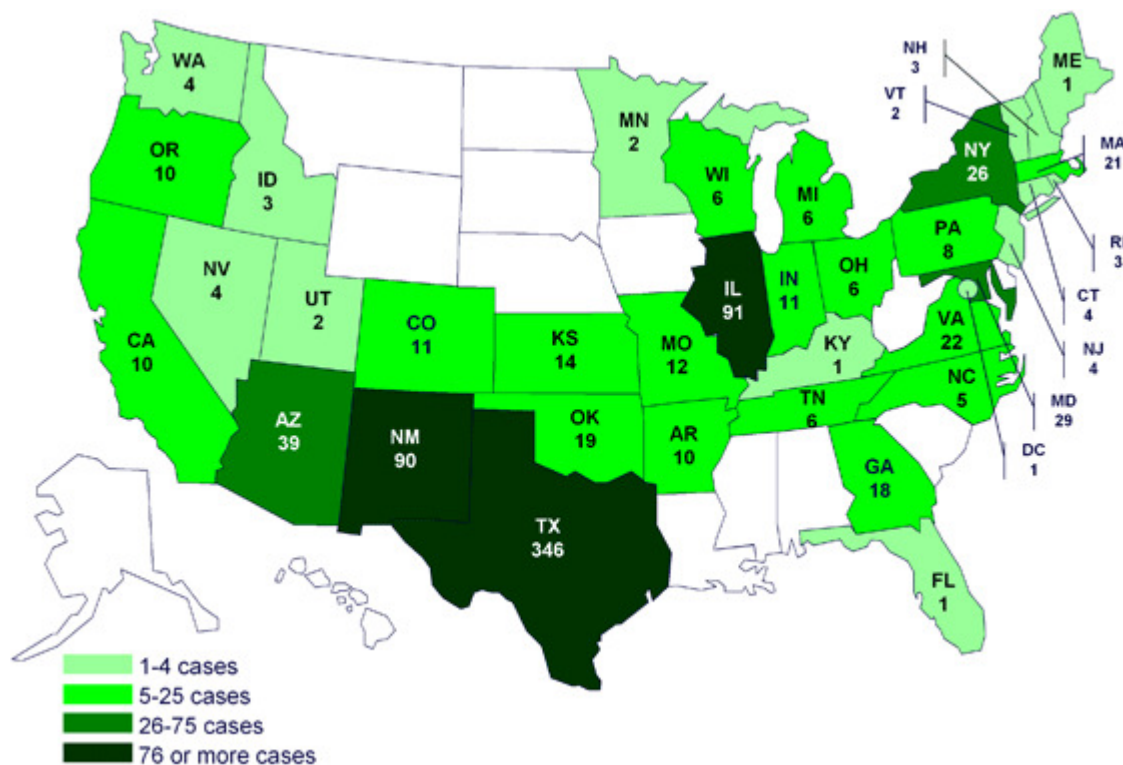
Among the 581 persons with information available, illnesses began between April 10 and June 20, 2008, including 173 who became ill on June 1 or later. Many steps must occur between a person becoming ill and the determination that the illness was caused by the outbreak strain of Salmonella; these steps take an average of 2-3 weeks. Therefore, an illness reported today may have begun 2-3 weeks ago. Patients range in age from <1 to 99 years; 49% are female. The number of illnesses is highest among persons 20 to 29 years old; the number of illnesses is lowest in children 10 to 19 years old and persons greater than 60 years old. At least 105 persons were hospitalized. No deaths have been officially attributed to this outbreak. However, a man in his sixties who died in Texas from cancer had an infection with the outbreak strain of Salmonella Saintpaul at the time of his death. The infection may have contributed to his death.

Only 3 persons infected with this strain of Salmonella Saintpaul were identified in the country during the same period in 2007. The previous rarity of this strain and the distribution of illnesses in all U.S. regions suggest that the implicated food is distributed throughout much of the country. Because many persons with Salmonella illness do not have a stool specimen tested, it is likely that many more illnesses have occurred than those reported. Some of these unreported

illnesses may be in states that are not on today's map.

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Persons infected with the outbreak strain of Salmonella Saintpaul, United States, by state, as of 9pm EST June 29, 2008



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Related FoodTrack Bulletin(s):

Outbreak Bulletin 28-Jun-08 (E) Saturday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#79]

Western Growers Asks for Congressional AG Committee Hearings Regarding Salmonella Outbreak and Investigations

Outbreak Bulletin 28-Jun-08 (D) Saturday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#78]

Add'l. FDA/CDC Comments/Information from 6/27/08 press teleconference

1. Tomato 'repacking' vexes salmonella trackers - SF Chronicle
2. Investigation goes beyond tomatoes: Sale of fruit is cut back, but illnesses continue to mount - Baltimore Sun
3. Tomatoes may not be to blame for salmonella - Miami Herald
4. Health officials question whether tomatoes behind outbreak - CNN
5. Tomatoes May Not Carry Salmonella - LA Times
6. DJN: WSJ(6/28) Source Of Salmonella Eludes Probers
7. Tomatoes may not be culprit in salmonella outbreak; With illnesses continuing, federal authorities are looking into other possible causes - AJC/Austin American-Statesman

Outbreak Bulletin 27-Jun-08 (N) Friday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#77]

AP Update: Are tomatoes really cause of salmonella outbreak?

Outbreak Bulletin 27-Jun-08 (M) Friday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#76]
Gov't rechecking cause of salmonella outbreak - AP

Outbreak Bulletin 27-Jun-08 (L) Friday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#75]
DJN: WSJ: 810 People Sickened By Salmonella-Tainted Tomatoes - CDC

Outbreak Bulletin 27-Jun-08 (B) Friday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#74]
1. [FL] State ag chief urges precise tomato IDs – Palm Beach Post
2. DJN: US Gives Green Light To 20% Of Mexican Tomato Export Capacity
3. CDC: 756 ill from salmonella-tainted tomatoes - AP

Outbreak Bulletin 26-Jun-08 (N) Thursday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#73]
CDC Update: 756 Illnesses in 34 States & DC
[Update for June 26, 2008 – Case count information as of 9 pm EST, June 25, 2008]

Outbreak Bulletin 26-Jun-08 (D) Thursday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#72]
Wood River [IL.] salmonella cases linked to national outbreak

Outbreak Bulletin 25-Jun-08 (O) Wednesday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#71]
CDC Update: 707 Illnesses in 34 States & DC

Outbreak Bulletin 25-Jun-08 (N) Wednesday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#70]
Significant Saintpaul Cluster Linked to a Food Establishment in Texas
[15 Cases Confirmed Between June 9th through the 20th]
[Two cases of tomatoes collected from the restaurant for testing]

Outbreak Bulletin 25-Jun-08 (k) Wednesday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#69]
FDA Includes Nevada to the List of areas that HAVE NOT BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE OUTBREAK

Outbreak Bulletin 25-Jun-08 (A) Wednesday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#68]
1. CDC Update: 652 Illnesses in 34 States & DC
2. States with persons with the outbreak strain of Salmonella Saintpaul, by state of residence.
3. Salmonella Outbreak Investigations: Timeline for Reporting Cases

Outbreak Bulletin 24-Jun-08 (J) Tuesday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#67]
1. FDA: Transcripts of FDA Media Briefings on Salmonella Outbreak (6/18 – 6/20)
2. Tomato growers anxious: AS CROPS RIPEN, MANY AWAIT CONSUMER FALLOUT

Outbreak Bulletin 24-Jun-08 () Tuesday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#66]
CDC: Information updated June 23, 2008

Since April, **613 persons infected with Salmonella Saintpaul** with the same genetic fingerprint have been identified in 33 states and the District of Columbia. **** In particular, one new state, Massachusetts reported ill persons. The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: Arkansas (3 persons), Arizona (34), California (8), Colorado (4), Connecticut (4), Florida (1), Georgia (14), Idaho (3), Illinois (45), Indiana (9), Kansas (9), Kentucky (1), Maryland (18), Massachusetts (12), Michigan (4), Missouri (12), New Hampshire (1), New Jersey (1), New Mexico (79), New York (18), North Carolina (1), Ohio (3), Oklahoma (17), Oregon (5), Pennsylvania (5), Rhode Island (2), Tennessee (4), Texas (265), Utah (2), Virginia (21), Vermont (1), Washington (1), Wisconsin (5), and the District of Columbia (1). Among the 316 persons with information available, **illnesses began between April 10 and June 13, 2008.**

Outbreak Bulletin 23-Jun-08 (J) Monday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#65]
Salmonella can ride water into tomatoes - AP

Outbreak Bulletin 22-Jun-08 () Sunday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#64]
1. US OKs some Mexican tomatoes in outbreak
2. FDA visits farms in Florida, Mexico over tainted tomatoes
3. 12 cases of tomato-linked salmonella in Mass.

Outbreak Bulletin 21-Jun-08 (A) Saturday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#63]

1. FDA: Update on the Investigation, June 20, 2008
2. FDA Update on the Outbreak
3. CDC: Information updated June 20, 2008

Outbreak Bulletin 20-Jun-08 (I) Friday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#62]
FDA inspectors to Fla., Mexico in salmonella probe - AP

Outbreak Bulletin 20-Jun-08 (H) Friday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#61]
FoodTrack Bullet Points from Joint FDA/CDC News Teleconference 06-20-08

CDC:

- 552 Cases in 32 States & DC now confirmed with the same genetic fingerprint.
- Texas now reporting 265 cases (included in the 552)
- 56 persons have been hospitalized.
- Illness onset: April 10 to June 10, 2008.

FDA:

- Traceback investigation has led to two potential legs: a number of farms in both Florida and Mexico.
- Extremely unlikely that contamination with the same serotype occurred in two separate places (FL. & Mexico)
- No evidence whatsoever that contamination was deliberate.
- Likely that contamination occurred somewhere in the distribution chain, rather than on a farm.
- FDA has mapped the entire pathway from point of purchase (clusters) to Florida and Mexican farms.
- FDA/CDC teams will be dispatched this weekend to visit every point in the distribution chains for both potential legs, including warehouses, packing sheds, distribution centers, processors, etc... in an attempt to identify a common denominator &/or source and point of contamination.
- FDA’s advice to consumers and industry remains unchanged.
- Texas clusters identified by the TDH; traceback in progress.
- All tomatoes tested to date have been negative for Salmonella Saintpaul.
- Next steps to narrow traceback investigation: Joint investigations with Florida and Mexican officials, sampling of domestic and imported tomatoes and pursuit new tracebacks where clusters are identified.

Outbreak Bulletin 19-Jun-08 (B) Thursday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#60]

1. FDA Outbreak Update - June 19, 2008: [FDA Includes IL in the List of areas that HAVE NOT BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE OUTBREAK]; Links to Transcripts of FDA Media Briefings
2. Salmonella fear traps some 30,000 tons of tomatoes in Mexico

Outbreak Bulletin 19-Jun-08 (A) Thursday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#59]

- Acheson: Mexican authorities have found the Saintpaul strain in Mexico, but that doesn't mean the tainted tomatoes were grown there, as the strain emerges in the U.S. every year in small numbers.
- Nine cases of salmonella at two Adobo Grill restaurants in Chicago could help federal regulators solve a widespread outbreak of the illness that has sickened at least 383 people in 30 states.

WSJ: Salmonella Cases Climb to 383

City IDs salmonella cluster: 9 cases at 2 eateries may help officials find origin of bad tomatoes- Chicago Tribune

Outbreak Bulletin 18-Jun-08 (J) Wednesday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#58]

[Madison County, IL] Health Department Investigating Salmonella Outbreak that appears to be associated with Los Tres Amigos Restaurant

Outbreak Bulletin 18-Jun-08 (I) Wednesday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#57]

City health department names restaurant tied to tainted tomatoes

A cluster of nine salmonella cases linked to tainted tomatoes occurred at the Adobo Grill's two restaurants on Chicago's North Side, the Chicago Department of Public Health said Wednesday.

Outbreak Bulletin 18-Jun-08 (H) Wednesday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#56]

CDC: 383 Illnesses Confirmed in 30 States Between April 10 and June 5, 2008

[NYC Reports 6 New Cases; New Mexico Cases rise by 9 to 77]

CDC: Information updated June 18, 2008

Tomato salmonella outbreak linked to 7 cases in New York City - Bloomberg News
Salmonella outbreak source still a mystery - Las Cruces Sun-News

Outbreak Bulletin 17-Jun-08 (J) Tuesday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#55]

FDA Outbreak Update - June 17, 2008:

- [FDA Includes OK in the List of areas that HAVE NOT BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE OUTBREAK]

Consumer Health Information: [Audio on Salmonella Outbreak in Tomatoes: Stephen F. Sundlof, D.V.M., Ph.D., CFSAN \(June 13, 2008\)](#)

Outbreak Bulletin 17-Jun-08 (D) Tuesday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#54]

1. FDA Outbreak Update - June 16, 2008: [FDA Includes CT-DE-DC in the List of areas that HAVE NOT BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE OUTBREAK]
2. WSJ: Salmonella Cases Linked To Tomatoes Increase
3. Baja tomatoes are safe, FDA says – Sac Bee
4. Tomatoes Getting a Bad Rap, Mexican Industry Says - LAT

Outbreak Bulletin 16-Jun-08 (E) Monday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#53]

FDA official: it's still not clear if the outbreak started at a farm or at a packing station - LAT
[Hunt for source of salmonella-tainted tomatoes continues]

Outbreak Bulletin 16-Jun-08 (D) Monday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#52]

CDC Update 06-16-08: 277 Illnesses Reported in 28 States [Latest Illness Onset Case is 06-05-08]

Outbreak Bulletin 16-Jun-08 (B) Monday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#51]

FDA focuses on nine cases for leads in tomato scare

Outbreak Bulletin 15-Jun-08 (A) Sunday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#50]

1. Md. confirms salmonella case linked to national outbreak – AP/Paper
2. Illness Update 06-15-08 – CDC & Media Reports - FoodTrack
3. FDA finds link in salmonella cases; Agency is still seeking source - Bloomberg
4. WSJ: Leading the News: Tomato Probe Targets Florida and Mexico
5. DJ: Mexican Ag Delegation To Discuss Tomato Ban With US Govt.

Outbreak Bulletin 15-Jun-08 () Sunday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#49]

FDA Outbreak Update - June 14, 2008

[FDA Includes Baja California (Norte) in the List of areas that HAVE NOT BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE OUTBREAK] Product lots of tomatoes harvested in this State in Mexico are allowed export into the U.S. with a certificate issued by the Secretaria de Fomento Agropecuario del Gobierno del Estado de Baja California (Agency).

Outbreak Bulletin 13-Jun-08 (M) Friday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#48]

Restaurant chain linked to 9 cases of tomato-borne salmonella

Outbreak Bulletin 13-Jun-08 (L) Friday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#47]

FDA Outbreak Update - June 13, 2008

[FDA Includes 2 additional States [IN & NM] in the List of areas that HAVE NOT BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE OUTBREAK]

Outbreak Bulletin 13-Jun-08 (K) Friday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#46]

KY & DC Report Salmonella Cases Linked to Tomato Outbreak

Salmonella outbreak has reached Kentucky

District Reports Salmonella Case in Tomato-Related Outbreak

Outbreak Bulletin 13-Jun-08 (J) Friday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#45]

DJN: WSJ: FDA Targets Fla., Mexico Tomatoes In Salmonella Outbreak

Outbreak Bulletin 13-Jun-08 (I) Friday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#44]

Tomato-related salmonella illnesses reported in central Ohio

Outbreak Bulletin 13-Jun-08 (G) Friday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#43]

FL. DOACS Commissioner Bronson Opens Fresh From Florida Program To Tomato Industry

Outbreak Bulletin 13-Jun-08 (F) Friday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#42]

1. Source of Tomato Salmonella Eludes FDA [FDA focused on growing regions in central Florida and Mexico] - LAT
2. PMA calls for more FDA funding; Produce groups call on buyers to put tomatoes back on shelves, menus
3. WSJ: U.S. News: Salmonella May Be Tied to a Death --- Investigators Hit Hurdles in Tracking Source of Outbreak
4. Tomato outbreak claims first Fla. Victim [Consumed raw tomatoes while on a visit to NY; No other FL cases under investigation - Paper]
5. Outbreak continues to expand; FDA says at least one promising lead has fallen through; Two Calif. victims may have eaten contaminated tomatoes during trips out of state- Paper

Outbreak Bulletin 13-Jun-08 (A) Friday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#41]

Salmonellosis Outbreak from Certain Tomatoes Information for State Regulatory Agencies

Outbreak Bulletin 12-Jun-08 (L) Thursday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#40]

FDA Outbreak Update - June 12, 2008

[FDA Includes 7 additional States [AK-IA-KS-KY-MI-MO-NH-VT] in the List of areas that HAVE NOT BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE OUTBREAK]

Outbreak Bulletin 12-Jun-08 (J) Thursday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#39]

CDC: Salmonella-tainted tomato illnesses reach 228: Six states that had escaped the outbreak so far have been added to the list -- **Florida, Georgia, Missouri, New York, Tennessee and Vermont** -- bringing the number of affected states to 23.

Outbreak Bulletin 12-Jun-08 (I) Thursday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#38]

Tomatoes Return to Stores and Menus as California Begins Harvest - California Tomato Farmers

FoodTrack News Alert [Salmonella - Tomatoes – Multi-State]:

DJN: *WSJ: CDC: Salmonella Strain Has Sickened 228 People In 23 States;

DJN: *WSJ: CDC: Salmonella May Have Contributed To Texas Cancer Patient's Death

(Dow Jones 06/12 16:25:20) (MORE TO FOLLOW) Dow Jones Newswires

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Outbreak Bulletin 12-Jun-08 (H) Thursday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#37]

FDA: Updated Q & A

Link: [Sample of an Outbreak Traceback Investigation Diagram](#)

Outbreak Bulletin [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#36]

Florida Growers Shipping Tomatoes Again after FDA Cleared Production Areas

Our tomatoes are "100 percent safe," Mexico says - EFE

DJ: Mexico Govt Calls On US To Expedite Tomato Probe

DJ: Mexican Tomato Growers Defend Their Produce As Safe

Feds say Florida, Mexico still suspects in tainted tomato case - CBS MarketWatch

FDA still hunting source of salmonella in tomatoes- AP

Tomato problem still unknown - Omaha World-Herald

Federal Probe Yet to Find Source of Tainted Tomatoes - LA Times

U.S. Health Officials Closer to Origin of Salmonella Outbreak Certain states have been ruled out as source of contaminated tomatoes - (US News)

New Mexico: State Updates Salmonella Cases, Issues Timeline

Outbreak Bulletin 11-Jun-08 (C) Wednesday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#35]

FDA Outbreak Update - June 11, 2008

[FDA Includes 4 additional States [MA-UT-VA-WA] in the List of areas that HAVE NOT BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE OUTBREAK]

Outbreak Bulletin 11-Jun-08 (A) Wednesday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#34]

1. NYT: FDA Reports Progress In Tracing Salmonella – FDA Spokeswoman

2. Key Fla. Tomato Crop Approved [VA. MAY be Cleared Today; Acheson Comments]

Outbreak Bulletin 11-Jun-08 () Wednesday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#33]

FDA Outbreak Update - June 10, 2008 [FDA Includes 5 additional States [CO-DE-FL (19 Counties) -NJ -WI] in the List of areas that HAVE NOT BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE OUTBREAK] (counties of: Jackson, Gadsden, Leon, Jefferson, Madison, Suwannee, Hamilton, Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Hardee, DeSoto, Sarasota, Highlands, Pasco, Sumter, Citrus,

Hernando, Charlotte)* * Shipments of tomatoes harvested in this counties are acceptable with a certificate issued by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Outbreak Bulletin 10-Jun-08 (H) Tuesday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#32]

FDA and Florida Officials Working on County by County Approved List for Florida Tomatoes – FoodTrack
According to a reliable source at the FL Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Food Safety, FDA has cleared Florida tomatoes with the stipulation that each lot shipped be accompanied by a certification letter signed by a Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ official certifying that each lot shipped originated from a list of FDA approved counties. The certification is expected to cover the following North Florida counties: Jackson, Gadsden, Leon, Jefferson, Madison, Suwannee and Hamilton. Central and South Florida counties would include Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Hardee, Desoto, Sarasota, Highlands, Pasco, Sumter, Citrus, Hernando and Charlotte.

Outbreak Bulletin 10-Jun-08 (G) Tuesday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#31]

Tainted tomatoes likely came from Mexico – CTV Report

Outbreak Bulletin 10-Jun-08 (F) Tuesday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#30]

Bronson Announces Florida Tomatoes Deemed Safe By FDA
Growers will provide a certificate with each shipment verifying the tomatoes are from Florida. Bronson points out that the tomatoes that are now being harvested and shipped from Florida did not even exist when the salmonella outbreak occurred.

Outbreak Bulletin 10-Jun-08 (E) Tuesday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#29]

Mexican tomato exports to US stall

Outbreak Bulletin 10-Jun-08 (A) Tuesday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#28]

1. CORRECTION: FDA Outbreak Update - June 9, 2008 (Corrected to 11 states added to FDA list, not 12. NC was already included in earlier lists(s).
2. CDC: Cases rise to 167 Cases in 17 States
3. Salmonella scare takes tomatoes off shelves, menus – Miami Herald
4. WSJ: Grocers and Restaurants Toss Out Tomatoes --- Salmonella Scare Delivers a Blow To Crop's Growers
5. Tomatoes pulled off shelves amid salmonella scare

Outbreak Bulletin 9-Jun-08 (Z) Monday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#27]

FDA Outbreak Update - June 9, 2008
[Advice for Consumers; Retailers, Restaurateurs & Food Service Operators Updated to Include 11 additional States (AL-LA-ME-MD-MN-MS-NY-NE--OH-PA-WV) in the List of areas that HAVE NOT BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE OUTBREAK] Note: NC was previously published in earlier lists.

Outbreak Bulletin 9-Jun-08 (Y) Monday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#26]

With Salmonella Scare, Retailers Reject Florida Tomatoes - Paper [No Illnesses Reported in Florida]

Outbreak Bulletin 9-Jun-08 (V) Monday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#25]

FDA Update 6/9/08: Q&A for Consumers and Industry; Consumer and Industry Advice and General Information
What states or countries have been ruled out as the source of this outbreak?
The U.S. states in which people have become ill from tomatoes do not necessarily represent the areas where the tomatoes were grown. The tomatoes might have been shipped to these states from elsewhere. **U.S. states and territories and countries other than the U.S. that had not gone into tomato production at the time of the outbreak or have been otherwise ruled out as the source of the contamination, include the following.** *U.S. States:* Arkansas - California - Georgia - Hawaii - North Carolina - South Carolina -Tennessee – Texas. *U.S. Territories:* Puerto Rico. *Countries Other than the U.S.:* Belgium - Canada - Dominican Republic - Guatemala - Israel – Netherlands.

Outbreak Bulletin 9-Jun-08 (S) Monday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#24]

DJN: DJ 3rd WSJ UPDATE: Adds Burger King's decision in fifth paragraph

Outbreak Bulletin 9-Jun-08 (R) Monday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#23]

DJN: DJ 2nd WSJ UPDATE: ADDS Wal-Mart's decision in 8th paragraph

Outbreak Bulletin 9-Jun-08 (Q) Monday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#22]

DJN: WSJ UPDATE: ADDS Chipotle halting salsa sales in 6th paragraph

Outbreak Bulletin 9-Jun-08 (P) Monday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#21]

DJN: WSJ: McDonald's, Others Pulling Some Tomatoes From US Menus

Outbreak Bulletin 9-Jun-08 (O) Monday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#20]

Winn-Dixie Pulls Select Tomatoes in Response to FDA Warnings of Salmonella

-- Arkansas -- California -- Georgia -- North Carolina -- South Carolina -- Tennessee -- Texas -- Belgium
-- Canada -- Dominican Republic -- Guatemala -- Israel

Outbreak Bulletin 9-Jun-08 (D) Monday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#19]

FDA Head To Make Statement Updating The Outbreak Today From A Regional lab In Irvine - LAT

[Heeding Salmonella Warning, Food Outlets Pull Tomatoes]

Outbreak Bulletin 8-Jun-08 (A) Sunday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#18]

Report - McDonald's has temporarily stopped serving tomatoes at its outlets across Canada

Outbreak Bulletin 8-Jun-08 () Sunday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#17]

FDA Outbreak Update - June 8, 2008

[Advice for Consumers; Retailers, Restaurateurs & Food Service Operators Updated to Include Hawaii in the List of areas that HAVE NOT BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE OUTBREAK]

Outbreak Bulletin 7-Jun-08 (F) Saturday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#16]

FDA Update: FDA Warns Consumers Nationwide Not to Eat Certain Types of Raw Red Tomatoes

Updates list of states, territories, and countries where tomatoes are grown and harvested which have not been associated with this outbreak; Number of Illnesses & States

Outbreak Bulletin 7-Jun-08 (E) Saturday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#15]

CDC Update: Investigation of Salmonella Saintpaul Outbreak

Outbreak Bulletin 7-Jun-08 (C) Saturday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#14]

CDC: Salmonella illnesses spread to 16 states

Outbreak Bulletin 7-Jun-08 (B) Saturday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#13]

1. CDPH: One Salmonella Case Reported (Individual Travelled Out Of State, To Il. According To Press Reports). CDPH Investigating if an Oregon Resident Visiting Calif. May Have Consumed Tomatoes While Visiting Southern Calif.

2. N.M. DOH: State Investigates 55 Salmonella Cases in 13 Counties

3. Texas records more tomato-related salmonella cases- Paper

4. [Texas] Family thinks tainted tomatoes contributed to man's death – TX Cable News

5. [WA]: Salmonella cases under investigation - Paper

6. Rare salmonella strain strikes 17 people in Illinois: Strain of salmonella linked to tomatoes- Paper

7. Statement from the Tomato Products Wellness Council

Outbreak Bulletin 6-Jun-08 (D) Friday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#12]

TN and AR Added to FDA's list of sources not associated with the outbreak

Outbreak Bulletin 5-Jun-08 (G) Thursday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#11]

FDA: Advice for Retailers, Restaurateurs and Food Service Operators

FDA traceback review, in addition to production and distribution pattern information, has indicated that tomatoes from the following sources are not associated with the outbreak:

California - Georgia - North Carolina - South Carolina - Texas - Belgium - Canada - Dominican Republic - Guatemala - Israel - Netherlands - Puerto Rico

Outbreak Bulletin 5-Jun-08 () Wednesday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#10]

1. NM DOH: The New Mexico stores implicated in the outbreak told us that their tomatoes came from Mexico; but emphasizes that this is preliminary and investigation into the source of the tomatoes continues.

2. California Tomato Farmers Coop's Beckman: It's not possible" that members of the coop grew the suspect tomatoes because tomatoes weren't harvested in the state until May 15, nearly a month after the salmonella cases were first reported. The Coachella Valley is the only region in the state where tomatoes have been harvested to date.

Stores pull some tomatoes after salmonella news

Salmonella outbreak linked to tomatoes puts state (CA.) on guard

Outbreak Bulletin 4-Jun-08 (C) Wednesday [Salmonella 'Saint Paul' – Multi-State – UD#9]

CDC Outbreak Update for June 4, 2008

[Cases now reported in WI & VA; CDC Posts Advice to Consumers Everywhere]

Outbreak Bulletin 4-Jun-08 () Wednesday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#8]

1. [TX] Grocers pulling some varieties in salmonella scare
2. CFIA: No illnesses reported in Canada linked to the U.S. outbreak

Outbreak Bulletin 3-Jun-08 (J) Tuesday [CORRECTING & REPLACING: Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#7]

FDA Warns Consumers in New Mexico and Texas Not to Eat Certain Types of Raw Red Tomatoes

Outbreak Bulletin 3-Jun-08 (I) Tuesday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#7]

FDA Warns Consumers in New Mexico and Texas Not to Eat Certain Types of Raw Red Tomatoes

Outbreak Bulletin 3-Jun-08 (E) Tuesday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#6]

N.M. DOH: Information gathered so far points to Mexico as the source of the tainted tomatoes

Outbreak Bulletin 2-Jun-08 (F) Monday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#5]

CDC: Preliminary data suggest that large tomatoes, including Roma and red round are the source

Outbreak Bulletin 1-Jun-08 (A) Sunday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#4]

N.M. Department of Health Announces Link Between Tomatoes, Salmonella

Outbreak Bulletin 1-Jun-08 () Sunday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#3]

Warning goes out for tainted tomatoes – N.M. Health Officials

Outbreak Bulletin 28-May-08 () Wednesday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#2]

NM Health officials still looking for Salmonella source; Suspect they will find a widely distributed food product

Outbreak Bulletin 26-May-08 () Monday [Salmonella ‘Saint Paul’ – Multi-State – UD#1]

Two More N.M. Salmonella Cases Confirmed; TX, CO, UT & AZ Reporting Cases

Outbreak Bulletin 23-May-08 (I) Friday [Salmonella – NM.]

Health officials study salmonella outbreak

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