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Outbreak of Salmonella Newport in Niles, Illinois linked to contaminated pickles *Officials urging residents to call if they purchased pickles from the contaminated batch.*

Officials at the Cook County Department of Public Health are investigating an outbreak of Salmonella Newport at the Assi Market in Niles, IL.

Currently, there are six identified laboratory-confirmed cases including five hospitalizations associated with this outbreak. All confirmed cases have reported eating a pickle purchased from the Assi Market. These pickles are made at this establishment and they are sold in plastic bags at the deli section. A pickle obtained from a family of two of the confirmed cases was sent to the Illinois Department of Public Health laboratory for testing and has been identified as positive for Salmonella. The batch of pickles was available for purchase July 25, 2010 through July 27, 2010 with a sell by date of August 24, 2010.

“We are asking for anyone who purchased these pickles to contact our agency,” CCDPH COO Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H. said. “Salmonella is a serious disease and we want to make sure we’ve spoken with anyone who may have become ill after eating these pickles. In addition, we are interested in conducting additional testing on any remaining pickles from this batch.”

Salmonella is a bacterial infection that in most cases causes diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12 to 72 hours after infection. Most affected individuals recover within four to seven days without treatment. However, infants, the elderly and persons who have a weakened immune system are at higher risk for a more severe illness that may require hospitalization.

Persons who have experienced diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps, and have eaten the contaminated pickles sold at Assi Market in Niles, Illinois that were sold between July 25, 2010 and July 27, 2010 should contact the Cook County Department of Public Health Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit at 708-492-2150.

Cooking food thoroughly, cleaning kitchen surfaces and good personal hygiene play a vital role in the prevention of Salmonella infections.

- People should not eat raw or undercooked eggs, poultry, or meat.
- Uncooked meats should be kept separate from produce, cooked foods, and ready-to-eat foods.
- Hands, cutting boards, counters, knives, and other utensils should be washed thoroughly after touching uncooked foods.
- People who have salmonella should not prepare food or pour water for others until their diarrhea has resolved.
- People should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water after using the bathroom.

For more information, please contact the Cook County Department of Public Health at 708-492-2000 or visit www.cookcountypublichealth.org.

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