



## Foodborne Illness in Suburban Cook County

Each year the Communicable Disease Control Unit receives hundreds of reports of diarrheal illness resulting from a number of pathogens, including, among others, Salmonella, Shigella, *E. coli* O157:H7 and norovirus. A subset of these reports are associated with foodborne disease outbreaks (FBDOs). Although most persons who have a foodborne illness recover without incident, pregnant women, seniors and persons with chronic underlying illnesses may suffer more severe disease, which can be fatal in rare circumstances. Many cases of foodborne illness are a result of improperly stored/handled or inadequately cooked foods that can lead to FBDOs. Although norovirus is the most common pathogen associated with foodborne illness, Salmonella is the leading bacterial cause of FBDOs.

In June, the Communicable Disease Control Unit began investigating a Salmonella outbreak associated with a private club in a northern suburb. Sixty eight (68) probable and confirmed cases of *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE) were identified in persons associated with the club, including 10 persons who were hospitalized.

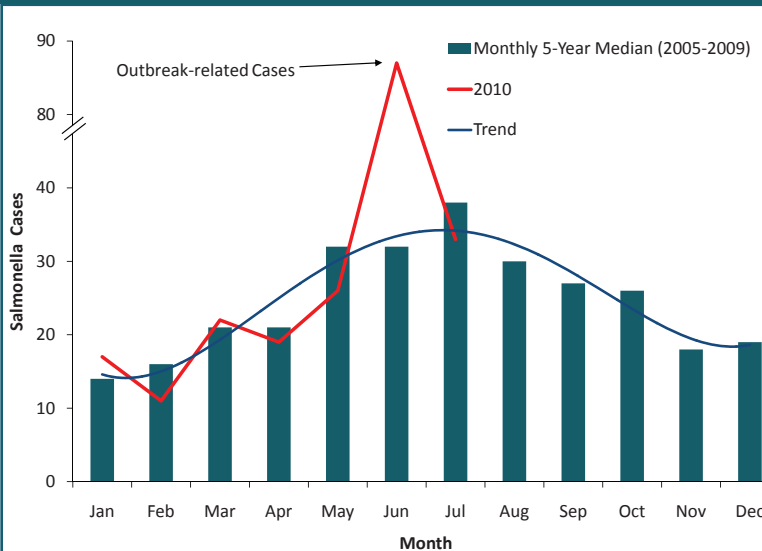
A second outbreak of Salmonella occurred in late July, provisionally associated with a suburban delicatessen. Six persons were confirmed to have *Salmonella* Newport infection, five of whom were hospitalized. Laboratory testing of store-made pickles obtained from persons with *S. Newport* infection also tested positive. These findings led to a recall of store-made pickles from this delicatessen.

Recently, there has been a large, nationwide recall of shell eggs. More than 1,300 SE cases nationwide have been linked to eggs from two wholesale facilities in Iowa. It is estimated that more than 500 million eggs may have been recalled. There have been no SE outbreaks associated with eggs reported to CCDPH.

It is important to remember these 5 simple steps to help reduce the risk of Salmonella infection or other foodborne illness: (1) Clean your hands with soap and water often. Also, regularly clean surfaces with soap and hot water or another agent that will disinfect surfaces; (2) Separate items

to avoid cross-contamination. For instance, use separate cutting boards for raw meat/poultry and vegetables; (3) Cook meats, poultry and eggs thoroughly and to their proper temperatures. For example, chicken and turkey should be cooked to 180°F; steaks should be cooked to at least 145°F; egg whites and yolks should be firm after cooking; (4) Store eggs in the refrigerator prior to use; (5) Food items that will be saved and served again should be refrigerated promptly in order to keep pathogens from multiplying in foods.

**Median Salmonella Cases Reported by Month (2005-2009) & Salmonella Cases Reported in 2010, Suburban Cook County**



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**Cook County Department of Public Health**  
[www.cookcountypublichealth.org](http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org)  
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**Chicago Department of Public Health**  
[www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph.html](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph.html)  
...  
**Illinois Department of Public Health**  
[www.idph.state.il.us](http://www.idph.state.il.us)  
...  
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
...

To report a communicable disease, please call 708-492-2150 during regular business hours (8:30 AM - 4:30 PM).

To reach communicable disease staff after hours (4:30 PM - 8:30 AM), please call 708-492-2150 and press '3' when prompted.

**Cook County  
Department of Public Health**

**Cook County Health and Hospitals System**



Morbidity for Selected Infectious Diseases, Suburban Cook County\*, 2005-2010

Vaccine Preventable	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	5 yr Median	Jan 1 to Jun 30, 2010
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> (type B)	1	3	0	0	2	1	0
Hepatitis B							
Acute	12	17	39	66	26	26	15
Chronic	602	513	511	383	293	511	156
Measles	0	0	0	11	0	0	0
Mumps	0	70	21	19	14	19	1
Pertussis (Whooping cough)	91	122	45	92	94	92	25
Rubella	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tetanus	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Selected Diseases</b>							
Cryptosporidiosis	15	16	21	14	15	15	11
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	12	14	17	10	33	14	4
Giardiasis	101	101	94	72	79	94	41
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	27	21	21	30	28	27	11
Hepatitis A	39	43	35	46	36	39	16
Hepatitis C	865	1,137	1,141	811	806	865	411
Histoplasmosis	4	9	10	19	3	9	6
Legionnaires' disease	11	31	14	38	30	30	13
Listeriosis	10	3	7	11	10	10	1
Lyme Disease	21	22	18	9	23	21	14
Malaria	13	19	11	21	19	19	3
Meningococcal disease	4	9	14	22	8	9	3
Pneumococcal disease (invasive)†	216	209	172	32	23	172	8
Salmonellosis	304	280	371	282	285	285	196
Shigellosis	76	89	95	120	90	90	75
Streptococcal Invasive (Group A)	80	50	47	38	46	47	35
Tuberculosis							
Active	120	116	139	100	100	116	49
Latent	1,848	1,323	947	733	N/A	1,135	N/A
Typhoid Fever	4	4	7	5	3	4	3
WNV (neuroinvasive)	46	33	16	3	0	16	0
<b>Sexually Transmitted Infections</b>							
Chlamydia	6,585	7,574	8,110	8,219	8,204	8,110	3,733
Gonorrhea	2,257	2,530	2,782	2,560	2,196	2,530	882
HIV	197	162	189	201	120¶	193	165
AIDS	187	129	185	112	74¶	157	49
Syphilis§	68	80	69	89	133	80	31

\* Excludes Evanston, Oak Park, Skokie and Stickney Township (except for tuberculosis)

† As of 3/08, reportable only in those < 5 years of age

¶ Provisional cases (as of 8/31/2010)

§ Early syphilis (i.e., primary, secondary and early latent)