



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

June 19, 2008

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TWO ADDITIONAL *SALMONELLA* CASES REPORTED IN COUNTY ***One Adult Was Exposed in Texas; Exposure Inconclusive in Second Case***

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) has received confirmation that two San Diego County adults have tested positive for *Salmonella*. One adult was exposed in Texas; the other did not travel outside the state. These cases are related to the multi-state outbreak associated with consuming certain types of raw tomatoes.

Since mid-April, 383 persons nationwide have been infected with *Salmonella* Saintpaul, the same strain of the disease identified in 30 states, including California. A four-year-old San Diego County child last week tested positive for *Salmonella* Saintpaul, and also was exposed to the disease in Texas. Including today's reported cases, there are a total of three San Diego County cases of the disease associated with the nationwide outbreak.

"The investigation and surveillance conducted by HHS Community Epidemiology and the County's Department of Environmental Health will continue," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. "We urge the public to follow federal Food and Drug Administration recommendations to not consume certain raw tomatoes."

To date in 2008, there have been 165 *Salmonella* cases in San Diego County not related to the nationwide outbreak.

The California Department of Public Health recommends Californians use caution in selecting tomatoes based on guidance from the Food and Drug Administration. FDA has no indication that tomatoes grown in California are associated with this outbreak. FDA preliminary data suggest that raw red plum, raw red Roma, or raw round red tomatoes are the cause. At this time, consumers should limit their tomato consumption to tomatoes that have not been implicated in the outbreak. FDA guidance is available at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html>.

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Most people infected with *Salmonella* develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12–72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts 4 – 7 days. Although most people recover without treatment, severe infections may occur. Infants, elderly persons, and those with impaired immune systems are more likely than others to develop severe illness. When severe infection occurs, *Salmonella* may spread from the intestines to the bloodstream and then to other body sites and can cause death. In these severe cases, antibiotic treatment may be necessary.

For more information on *Salmonella*, please visit the Centers for Disease Control Web site at www.cdc.gov and click on “Health Topics A-Z.”

Editor’s Note: Dr. Wilma Wooten is available at 6:30 p.m. for media interviews. Location: 1700 Pacific Highway, San Diego

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