



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Kevin R. Hayden, Secretary

***Salmonella* Tennessee / Peanut Butter Outbreak**

February 16, 2007

“Wisconsin has five cases of *Salmonella* Tennessee. Our cases are not definitively linked to peanut butter right now. We recommended you contact your doctor if you develop symptoms.”

Wisconsin has five cases of *Salmonella* Tennessee.

- This is the same strain the CDC is investigating possibly related to peanut butter, but we currently do not have definitive evidence that peanut butter is the culprit.
- **Five cases:** Dane, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Washington, and Winnebago Counties. All adults – ages 19 to 81. Four females, one male.
- **Dates of cases:** 1 in September 2006, 3 in December 2006, 1 in January 2007
- Average 750 cases of *Salmonella* each year in Wisconsin.

Our cases are not definitively linked to peanut butter right now.

- CDC and health departments are erring on side of caution. CDC believes it's statistically likely that these two peanut butter brands (Peter Pan and Great Value) are the culprits.
- Currently performing more extensive food histories on the five individuals that had laboratory confirmed cases of *Salmonella* Tennessee.
- Of the four that have been completed: two had consumed peanut butter, two had **NOT** eaten peanut butter.

We recommend you contact your health care provider if you develop symptoms.

- Key to knowing it's *Salmonella* is that symptoms last **4-7 days**.
- Diarrhea, fever, abdominal cramps 12 to 72 hours after infection.
- Elderly, infants and those with impaired immune systems are more likely to have severe illness.

Possible Follow-up Questions

Should I get my peanut butter tested?

If an individual tested positive for *Salmonella* Tennessee that matches the outbreak strain, they should save the jar of peanut butter at room temperature for testing.

Should I throw out my peanut butter, especially the ones marked 2111 on the lid?

If there are individuals who have consumed Peter Pan or Great Value peanut butter with the product code "2111" and **did not** report any gastrointestinal illness symptoms, the FDA is advising them to either throw the product away or return it to the store where they purchased the product.

When will you know if it's the peanut butter that's causing *Salmonella* Tennessee infections?

The CDC and our local health departments are working as quickly – and as thoroughly – as they can to help determine the cause.

For more information, visit the CDC web site at www.cdc.gov or the Department's website at www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov.