

Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

January 25, 2016

Rebecca Burns, Health Officer, BHSJ CHA
517-279-9561, ext. 0148#

Rob Stauffer, Environmental Health Director
517-279-9561, ext. 0228#

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Listeriosis Outbreak In Michigan

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has been collaborating with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and local health departments on a multistate foodborne outbreak of Listeriosis. Listeriosis is a serious bacterial infection which causes fever and muscle aches, often preceded by diarrhea or other gastrointestinal symptoms. Twelve people in six states have been infected with the outbreak strain of Listeria since July 5, 2015, including: Indiana (1), Massachusetts (1), Michigan (4), New Jersey (1), New York (4), and Pennsylvania (1). One of the Michigan cases has resulted in death.

The source of the illnesses was not known until January 2016 when the laboratory results from packaged salad collected at a Dole processing facility in Springfield, Ohio, was linked to the illnesses. Laboratory tests showed that the strain of Listeriosis found in the plant was similar to that found in those ill. The CDC is recommending that consumers do not eat, restaurants do not serve, and retailers do not sell packaged salads produced at the Dole processing facility in Springfield, OH. The company is withdrawing all packaged salads currently on the market that were produced at this facility. These packaged salads, which were distributed in Michigan, were sold under various brand names including:

- Dole, Fresh Selections,
- Simple Truth,
- Marketside,
- The Little Salad Bar, and
- President's Choice.

These packaged salads can be identified by the letter "A" at the beginning of the manufacturing code found on the package. At this time, there is no evidence to suggest that packaged salads produced at other Dole processing facilities in the United States are linked to illness.

Listeria can cause a serious, life-threatening illness. Symptoms of listeriosis include: high fever, severe headache, neck stiffness, muscle aches, and nausea, sometimes diarrhea or other gastrointestinal symptoms. The disease primarily affects pregnant women, newborn babies, older adults, and adults with weakened immune systems. Pregnant women may experience a milder illness with fever and non-specific symptoms, such as fatigue, headache, and aches; however, infections in pregnant women can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth, premature delivery, or a life-threatening infection in the newborn. The incubation period can range from 2-3 days after exposure to as long as 70 days. People experiencing these symptoms and who may have consumed this packaged salad product should seek immediate medical attention.

To learn more about Listeriosis or other foodborne diseases, go to the health department's website at www.bhsj.org and click on 'Quick Info About Health Topics.'

Branch County
570 N. Marshall Rd.
Coldwater, MI 49036
(517) 279-9561,
ext. 0106#

Hillsdale County
20 Care Drive
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-7395
ext. 0311#

St. Joseph County
1110 Hill St.
Three Rivers, MI 49093
(269) 273-2161
ext. 0233#

###