



COUNTY OF ERIE

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HEALTH ADVISORY #356

October 3, 2022

SALMONELLA INCREASE IN WESTERN AND CENTRAL NEW YORK STATE

Please distribute to Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Laboratories, Family Planning Providers, Emergency Rooms, Community Health Centers, College Health Centers, Community-Based Organizations, and Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatric, Adolescent Medicine, Infectious Disease, and Primary Care Providers

SUMMARY

- Local health departments in Western and Central NY, with the assistance of the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), are investigating an increase in Salmonella cases reported since September 1, 2022. Since the beginning of the month, and in these regions, there have been more than 254 cases identified in comparison to 51 cases in the same timeframe in 2021.
- More than 25% of the cases reported since the beginning of September have been hospitalized.
- The Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) along with NYSDOH is asking providers to consider salmonellosis in the differential diagnosis of patients presenting with gastrointestinal symptoms, particularly diarrhea, abdominal pain and cramps, and fever.
- Laboratories should conduct culture on stools or reflex to culture if a culture-independent detection method is found to be positive for Salmonella. Isolates are requested to be forwarded to Wadsworth Center Laboratories as soon as possible for additional analyses.
- Suspect or confirmed cases of salmonellosis should be reported promptly to the local health department where the patient lives. **For Erie County residents, contact the ECDOH Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance at 716-858-7697.**

BACKGROUND

Local health departments in Western and Central New York (NY), with the assistance of the New York State Department of Health (DOH), are investigating an increase in Salmonella cases reported since September 1, 2022. Cases range in age from less than 1 year old to 91 years old, with a median age of 43 years old. Of note, more than 25% of the cases reported since the beginning of the month have been hospitalized. To date, no common events exposures have been identified. Additional investigation is underway to further characterize the current increase and to determine a potential source of transmission.

CLINICAL DESCRIPTION AND TREATMENT

Physicians evaluating patients presenting with gastrointestinal illness, particularly diarrhea, abdominal pain, cramps, and fever, should include salmonellosis in their differential diagnosis. Salmonellosis usually resolves within five to seven days and often does not require treatment. Those with severe diarrhea may require rehydration, often with intravenous fluids. Antibiotics are usually not necessary and not recommended except in certain circumstances such as HIV infection; immunocompromise; patients older than 50 with cardiac, valvular, endovascular abnormalities or substantial joint disease; age 65 or older; or severe illness (severe diarrhea, high/persistent fever, hospitalization).

TESTING

Stool specimens should be collected as soon as possible, ideally while the patient is acutely ill. All stools positive for Salmonella by a culture-independent diagnostic method, such as PCR, should be reflexed to culture. All Salmonella isolates obtained by culture are requested to be submitted to NYSDOH Wadsworth Center Laboratory for further analysis as outlined in the 2020 Wadsworth Laboratory Reporting of Communicable Diseases https://www.wadsworth.org/sites/default/files/WebDoc/CDRG%20NYState%202020_101920%202.pdf. The NYSDOH Wadsworth Center Laboratory remote order forms and shipping information are available at: <https://www.wadsworth.org/electronic-test-request-reporting-new>.

REPORTING

All suspect cases and laboratory positive Salmonella cases should be reported immediately by telephone to the local health department where the patient resides. **For Erie County residents, contact the ECDOH Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance at 716-858-7697.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

General Salmonellosis information from NYSDOH:
<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/salmonellosis/>

Health Category Definitions:

Health Alert FLASH: conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Alert Priority: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary

The Erie County Department of Health does not provide medical advice. The information provided on the Erie County Department of Health website is not an attempt to practice medicine and is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. It is for informational purposes only. Always seek the advice of your personal physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition or issue. Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of the content found on the Erie County Department of Health website or this correspondence.

The ECDOH Health Alert & Advisory System is an e-mail notification system designed to alert community partners about important health related information. You can sign up to receive alerts & advisories at <https://www3.erie.gov/health/form/health-alert-registration>