



**JUNE 18, 2009**

## **HEALTH ADVISORY**

### **Department of Health Investigates Food-Borne Outbreak**

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) is investigating two possible food-borne outbreaks causing gastro-intestinal illness. One outbreak is associated with a wedding in Washburn on June 13, 2009, and the other outbreak is associated with a family reunion in Wilton on June 13, 2009.

Please report any individual that is known to be associated with either outbreak to Sarah Weninger at 701.328.2366 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.

Preliminary laboratory tests are indicating that this outbreak is likely caused by *Salmonella* sp. Confirmatory and further laboratory testing to identify the type of *Salmonella* as well as susceptibility testing is pending.

#### Treatment

- Antimicrobial therapy is not generally indicated for patients with either asymptomatic infection or uncomplicated gastroenteritis caused by nontyphoidal *Salmonella* species. Therapy does not shorten disease duration and can prolong duration of fecal excretion.\*
- Antimicrobial therapy is recommended for gastroenteritis caused by *Salmonella* species in people at increased risk of invasive disease, including infants younger than 3 months and people with chronic gastrointestinal tract disease, malignant neoplasms, hemoglobinopathies, HIV infection or other immunosuppressive illnesses or therapies. Ampicillin, amoxicillin or trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole is recommended for susceptible strains.\*
- For invasive, nonfocal infections (such as bacteremia or enteric fever) 10 to 14 days of therapy is recommended.\*

If you have any further questions, please contact Sarah Weninger, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2366 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.

\*Source: American Academy of Pediatrics. In: Pickering LK, ed. *Red Book: 2006 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 27<sup>th</sup> ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2006: [579-584]

#### *Categories of Health Alert messages:*

- *Health Alert* conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- *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.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

*This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, and hospital public information officers.*