



EPI WATCH

Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter

205 Dr. MLK Jr. St. N
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
727-824-6900

Director

Ulyee Choe, DO

Editor

Rachel Ilic, MPH, CPH, CIC
Rachel.Ilic@FLHealth.gov

Division of Disease Control and Health Protection

Disease Reporting

To report diseases and
clusters of illness:

Phone: 727-824-6932

Fax: 727-484-3865

(excluding HIV/AIDS)

To report HIV/AIDS by
mail:

Surveillance Room 3-138

205 Dr. MLK Jr St. N

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/HealthyPinellas

Follow us on X:

@HealthyPinellas

CDC HAN: 520

Accelerated Subtyping of Influenza A in Hospitalized Patients

Summary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to clinicians and laboratories due to sporadic human infections with avian influenza A(H5N1) viruses amid high levels of seasonal influenza activity. CDC is recommending a shortened timeline for subtyping all influenza A specimens among hospitalized patients and increasing efforts at clinical laboratories to identify non-seasonal influenza. Clinicians and laboratorians are reminded to test for influenza in patients with suspected influenza and, going forward, to now expedite the subtyping of influenza A-positive specimens from hospitalized patients, particularly those in an intensive care unit (ICU). This approach can help prevent delays in identifying human infections with avian influenza A(H5N1) viruses, supporting optimal patient care and timely infection control and case investigation.

Recommendations for Testing of Hospitalized Patients

In addition to jurisdiction-specific instructions for sending specimens for subtyping, CDC now recommends that all influenza A positive respiratory specimens from hospitalized patients, especially from those in an ICU, be subtyped for seasonal influenza A viruses [A(H1) and A(H3)] as soon as possible following admission—ideally within 24 hours—to support optimal patient care and [proper infection prevention and control](#) measures and to facilitate rapid [public health investigation and action](#).

Recommendations for the Public

- People should avoid direct contact with wild birds and other animals infected with or suspected to be infected with avian influenza A viruses.
- If you must have direct or close contact with infected or potentially infected birds or other animals, wear recommended personal protective equipment (PPE).
- [Additional information](#) on protecting yourself from avian influenza A(H5) infection is available from CDC.

For More Information

<https://www.cdc.gov/han/2025/han00520.html>

[H5 Bird Flu: Current Situation](#) | CDC

[2024-2025 Influenza Season: Surveillance for Novel Influenza A and Seasonal Influenza Viruses](#) | CDC

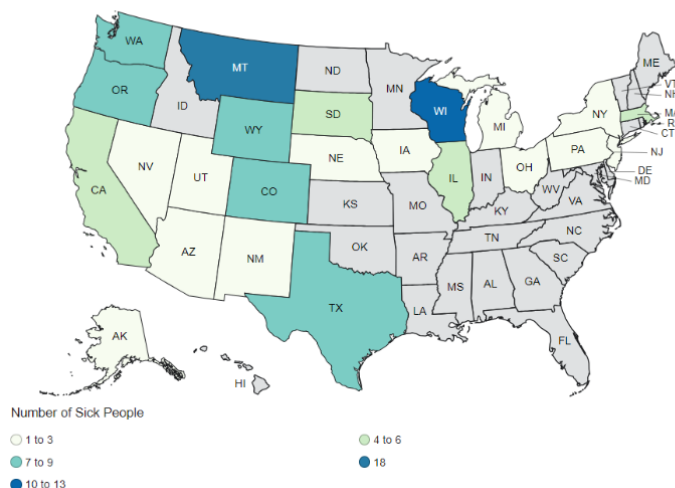
[Interim Guidance for Infection Control Within Healthcare Settings When Caring for Confirmed Cases, Probable Cases, and Cases Under Investigation for Infection with Novel Influenza A Viruses Associated with Severe Disease](#) | CDC

Outbreak Investigation of Salmonella: Cucumbers (November 2024)

In November 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC) along with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and state partners investigated a multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Typhimurium infections linked to American/slicer cucumbers from by /Agrotato, S.A. de C.V. in Sonora, Mexico. As of January 8, 2025, the CDC has declared the outbreak over.

A total of 113 people from 23 states were infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella*. Epidemiologic and traceback information demonstrated that American/slicer cucumbers grown by Agrotato, S.A. de C.V. in Sonora, Mexico were the source of the illnesses in this outbreak. Several companies issued recalls for the cucumbers and products containing the recalled cucumbers.

Case Count Map Provided by CDC



Summary of the outbreak:

Total Illnesses: 113

Hospitalizations: 28

Deaths: 0

Last Illness Onset: December 7, 2024

States with Cases: AK, AZ, CA, CO, IA, IL, MA, MI, MT, NE, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OR, PA, SD, TX, UT, WA, WI and WY

Product Distribution: Nationwide

References:

[Outbreak Investigation of Salmonella: Cucumbers \(November 2024\) | FDA](#)

Severe Health Outcomes Linked to Consumption of Mushroom-Based Psychoactive Microdosing Products — Arizona, June–October 2024

Summary

What is already known about this topic?

Availability of products containing labeled and sometimes unlabeled psychoactive compounds is increasing.

What is added by this report?

In June 2024, Arizona identified a cluster of cases of severe adverse health effects, including neurologic and cardiac signs and symptoms, after ingestion of Diamond Shroomz-brand chocolate bars. These products are labeled to include psychoactive mushroom extracts. The investigation prompted a nationwide product recall and public health response with detection of 180 cases in 34 states.

What are the implications for public health practice?

Edible products marketed as containing mushroom-based psychoactive substances could provoke life-threatening illness. Persons should stop consuming Diamond Shroomz-brand products and exercise caution when consuming other products reported to contain mushroom-based psychoactive substances.

For more information: [Notes from the Field: Severe Health Outcomes Linked to Consumption of Mushroom-Based Psychoactive Microdosing Products — Arizona, June–October 2024 | MMWR](#)



Select Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	Pinellas		YTD Total		Pinellas County Annual Totals		
	Dec 2024	Dec 2023	Pinellas 2024	Florida 2024	2023	2022	2021
A. Vaccine Preventable							
Coronavirus 2019	708	1869	19894	422056	25494	119171	103400
Measles	0	0	0	12	0	0	0
Mpox	0	2	12	198	6	162	0
Mumps	1	0	2	12	0	0	1
Pertussis	8	0	37	708	1	2	1
Varicella	2	1	175	707	25	24	25
B. CNS Diseases & Bacteremias							
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0	3	18	1	3	1
Meningitis (Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic)	0	0	16	150	6	12	5
Meningococcal Disease	0	0	1	30	3	2	1
C. Enteric Infections							
Campylobacteriosis	15	19	225	5445	224	208	213
Cryptosporidiosis	1	1	28	546	28	38	28
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	7	222	11	21	9
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+)	2	4	34	1054	37	28	16
Giardiasis	5	6	59	1266	40	34	29
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	0	0	2	27	2	0	0
Listeriosis	0	0	1	42	2	3	3
Salmonellosis	13	21	224	8440	194	174	182
Shigellosis	5	5	46	1216	56	37	37
D. Viral Hepatitis							
Hepatitis A	0	0	1	122	1	20	6
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	0	1	4	483	17	20	10
Hepatitis B, Acute	2	2	29	777	37	33	51
Hepatitis C, Acute	16	6	82	1799	106	120	91
E. Vectorborne/Zoonoses							
Animal Rabies	0	0	1	113	1	0	0
Rabies, possible exposure	13	34	246	7459	227	151	135
Chikungunya Fever	1	0	2	18	0	0	0
Dengue fever	0	1	10	1039	5	7	0
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	1	2	17	300	21	11	7
Malaria	0	0	2	62	4	4	2
West Nile Virus	0	0	1	24	0	0	0
Zika Virus Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
F. Others							
Hansen's Disease	0	0	1	20	1	0	0
Legionellosis	1	2	36	640	16	38	36
Mercury Poisoning	0	0	0	22	0	0	2
Tuberculosis	1	0	21	283	22	21	24
<i>Vibrio</i> Infections	2	0	32	351	13	0	0
G. Sexually Transmitted Infections							
	Pinellas		YTD Total		Pinellas County Annual Totals		
	Dec 2024	Dec 2023	Pinellas 2024	Pinellas 2023	2022	2021	2020
Chlamydia	296	386	3079	3200	4032	4090	3953
Gonorrhea	148	182	1385	1317	1753	1883	1634
Syphilis, Total	49	53	450	512	762	634	466
Syphilis, Infectious (Primary and Secondary)	24	31	216	272	348	274	212
Syphilis, Early Latent	9	14	113	156	275	239	159
Syphilis, Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	16	6	117	79	134	114	91
Syphilis, Congenital	2	2	4	5	5	7	4

*YTD up to December 31, 2024. n/a = not available at this time

**includes travel and non-travel associated cases