



## Salmonella Outbreak

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) report that as of May 13, 2015, a total of 20 persons infected with the outbreak strain of Salmonella Muenchen have been reported from 16 states since January 1, 2014. The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: Florida (1), Iowa (1), Illinois (1), Indiana (1), Kansas (1), Massachusetts (1), Minnesota (1), Montana (1), New Hampshire (1), New York (1), Ohio (2), Pennsylvania (2), Tennessee (1), Virginia (1), Washington (2), and Wisconsin (2).

Dates that illnesses began range from January 1, 2014 to March 7, 2015. Ill persons range in age from younger than 1 year to 57 years, with a median age of 14 years. Fifty-eight percent of ill persons are female. Three (15%) persons have been hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.

Illnesses that occurred after April 21, 2015 might not be reported because that can take 2 to 4 weeks after someone becomes ill.

- Epidemiologic, laboratory, and trace back findings have linked this outbreak of human Salmonella infections to contact with pet crested geckos purchased from multiple pet stores in different states.
  - Ten (91%) of 11 ill persons interviewed reported contact with a crested gecko in the week before their illness began.
- CDC'S National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) laboratory conducted antibiotic resistance testing on Salmonella Muenchen isolates collected from two ill people infected with the outbreak strain.
  - Both isolates were susceptible to all antibiotics tested on the NARMS panel.
  - Antibiotic resistance testing on additional isolates collected from ill people infected with the outbreak strain is ongoing.
- This outbreak is a reminder to follow simple steps to enjoy your pet and keep your family healthy. CDC does not recommend that pet owners get rid of their geckos.
  - It is very important to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water right after touching pet reptiles or anything in the area where they live and roam.

**PIJAC has been proactively promoting good handling techniques for more than a decade and recommends these additional resources:**

1. **Flyers** - *Salmonella prevention for retailers:*  
<http://www.pijac.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/FLYERSalmonellosis092914.pdf>
2. **Signs** - *Healthy handling of reptiles:*  
<http://www.pijac.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/ZoonosesStoreSignReptile.pdf>
3. **Posters** - *Healthy Herp Handling:*  
<http://www.pijac.org/HealthyHerpHandling>