

State of Montana DPHHS HAN ADVISORY

Distributed via the DPHHS Health Alert Network (HAN) System

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DPHHS Health Alert Hotline 1-800-701-5769

Visit the DPHHS Health Alert Network Website at www.han.mt.gov

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DPHHS recommends you do forward this HAN message to your local HAN contacts.

DPHHS Recommendations: None

Salmonella Cases in Montana Linked to National Outbreak

Montana now has two cases of Salmonella typhimurium infection related to the national peanut butter product outbreak, according to Bonnie Barnard, communicable disease surveillance epidemiologist for the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Two adults from Hill County, one of whom is believed to have eaten one of the peanut butter cracker products that are epidemiologically linked to the outbreak became ill on January 26, 2009 and February 2, 2009.

The numbers of new cases nationwide have declined modestly since the peak in December. "However, the outbreak is continuing," Barnard said. "All Montanans are encouraged to dispose of recalled products, particularly peanut butter containing crackers on the recall list. It's important for consumers to look in all places where these products may be stored, including emergency food supplies, automobile glove compartments, etc."

To help consumers identify affected products, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has initiated a [searchable database of recalled products](#) that is updated daily or as additional recalls are identified. To date, more than 2,100 products in 17 categories have been voluntarily recalled by more than 200 companies, and the list continues to grow. The searchable database, with names and pictures of the products, of recalled products can be accessed at <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm> For those without Internet access, information can be obtained at 1-800-CDCINFO (232-4636.)

National brands of jarred peanut butter sold in grocery stores have not been implicated in this outbreak; only peanut butter containing products.

As of Thursday, February 19, 2009, 654 persons infected with the outbreak strain of Salmonella Typhimurium have been reported from 44 states. Among the persons with confirmed, reported dates available, illnesses began between September 1, 2008 and February 3, 2009. Patients range in age from less than 1 to 98 years.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), FDA and DPHHS are recommending that:

- Consumers who have recalled products in their homes should discard those products.
- Consumers should avoid eating all peanuts and peanut products produced at the Peanut Corporation of America plant in Blakely GA per the recall the list.
- Consumers with pets should know that some pet foods and pet treats include peanut butter, including dog biscuits and bird food. If you have a recalled pet product in your household, do not feed it to your pet or other animals.

Salmonella can cause abdominal cramping, diarrhea and fever usually lasting four to seven days. People who think they may have become ill from eating peanut butter are advised to consult their health-care providers.

For more information, contact Barnard at (406) 444-0273.

For more information go the CDC website at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyph.html> or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration website at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyph.html>.

Or, visit the DPHHS home page at www.dphhs.mt.gov.

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The goal of Montana's Health Alert Network is to transmit information to local public health authorities as quickly as possible, and assign a suitable priority to the message that is sensitive to the impact of a health-related event providing information relative to the public health and safety of Montanans. For questions or comments relative to Montana's HAN system you may contact the DPHHS HAN Coordinator, Gerry Wheat at <<mailto:gwheat@mt.gov>>

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; unlikely to require immediate action.

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification data base. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use please notify us as soon as possible by e-mail at hhshan@mt.gov <mailto:hhshan@mt.gov>

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