



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY  
1650 COCHRANE CIRCLE  
FORT CARSON, COLORADO 80913



HEALTH ADVISORY  
RE: SALMONELLA TYPHEMERIUM  
TO: ALL FORT CARSON HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS  
JAN 21, 2009

This is to update you on the recent ongoing Salmonella typhemerium outbreak that is occurring in 43 states related to peanut butter consumption. It is possible our providers will see patients with gastrointestinal symptoms who express concern over having consumed peanut butter products as the source of their illness. According to the Centers for Disease Control, as of 21 January 2009, 486 ill persons have been identified and 6 deaths may be linked to the outbreak. Twelve cases of illness have occurred in Colorado, with two cases in El Paso County.

Initial case-control studies comparing ill to non-ill persons indicate a connection between Salmonella infection and peanut butter product consumption. Nationally, many brands using peanut butter or peanut paste in their products have issued recalls. A current list of recalls can be found on the FDA's website, <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyph.html#recalls>. All products involved in the recall that are sold on Fort Carson have been pulled from shelves. At this time, name brand peanut butter sold commercially in jars (i.e. Jif, Peter Pan) are not associated with the outbreak.

Providers should maintain a high index of suspicion for Salmonella infection especially in patients presenting with sudden onset of headache, abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea, and sometimes vomiting. Fever is almost always present. Stool cultures should be obtained on any patients suspected of having Salmonella infection. Positive labs should be referred to the nurse epidemiologist at the Preventive Medicine department for further investigation. Persons working at or attending day care or working in food-handling or health care should be excluded from care and/or work until diarrhea is absent for 24 hours.

If providers or patients have any further concerns, they may be directed to the Preventive Medicine Department Communicable Disease Program at (719) 526-2939.

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