



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Public Health

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Public Health Report Identifies Source of Salmonella Outbreak

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Cumberland County and state public health investigators have determined that the All American Grill within the Holiday Inn Bordeaux was the source of a salmonella outbreak in May that resulted in 100 identified cases of illness. According to the report by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, public health officials could not implicate a specific food item, citing the likelihood of cross-contamination of food products and restaurant surfaces.

Some food service employees continued to work while ill and may have contributed to the contamination in the restaurant, the report said. The North Carolina Food Code Manual states that food employees with diarrheal illness should be excluded from work until they are asymptomatic for at least 24 hours.

Cumberland County Public Health Director Buck Wilson received the final report from state officials. The report is available on the county's website at <http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/health>.

“Our goal is always to protect the public’s health,” Wilson said. “With this and any other public health investigation, our goal is to identify action steps and safety measures that will stop the spread of illness and prevent this kind of event from happening again. This investigation was a real team effort by county and state environmental and communicable disease staff, as well as Holiday Inn Bordeaux management.”

The county Health Department began an on-site investigation at the Holiday Inn on May 13 and notified the state of two confirmed and 13 possible linked salmonella cases. State and county health personnel interviewed hotel staff and individuals who were sickened in the outbreak, and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services took environmental samples.

Illness onset dates ranged from May 1 to May 17. Eventually, 100 cases were identified; 25 confirmed and 75 probable. Hotel staff accounted for 29 percent of cases; the rest were hotel and restaurant patrons from the local area, across North Carolina and eight other states.

Analysis by the State Laboratory of Public Health confirmed a specific strain of Salmonella Typhimurium unique to the state during the time period for this outbreak, which the report said supports “the conclusion that the contamination was localized to the hotel restaurant.”

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The report spells out recommendations made to the restaurant by county environmental health staff and discusses the impact of sick employees reporting for work.

For more information on salmonella, visit <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/diseases/salmonellosis.html>.

For additional information about the Cumberland County Department of Public Health, please call 910-433-3600 or visit with someone at the information desk. Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at www.co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment_form.aspx. The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. in Fayetteville.

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