



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
&  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

## For Immediate Release

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News media calls to Vic Reato: Media Services Manager at (815)727-5088.

### LOCAL CASE PART OF NATIONAL SALMONELLA OUTBREAK

JOLIET – A Will county resident is now listed among five Illinois cases genetically linked to an ongoing salmonella outbreak involving at least 43 states. Peanut butter is a likely source of Salmonella typhimurium infection identified in at least 435 people across the U.S. between September 1, 2008, and January 6, 2009. The national case count includes a Will County resident who reported illness in December.

The Will County Health Department investigated five cases of Salmonella typhimurium between September 1, 2008, and January 1, 2009, but only one of the cases has been genetically linked to the national outbreak. Most of the national cases have been identified since October 1, and at least five fatalities are potentially involved. The Will County case was not hospitalized and has fully recovered.

Approximately 18 percent of the national cases have required hospitalization, according to the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Patients have ranged between two months and 98 years of age.

Although salmonella bacterial infection is most commonly associated with raw meat, eggs and produce, it can also grow in uncooked processed foods. An investigation in Minnesota linked peanut butter to approximately 30 Salmonella typhimurium cases reported there and at least three U.S. companies have recalled products in the wake of other investigations pointing to peanut butter as a likely source of infection.

Salmonella bacteria live in the intestinal tracts of many animals and are generally transmitted through contact with feces from an infected source. Typhimurium is the most common of nearly 2500 strains of salmonella bacteria. Salmonella infection typically results in cramps, diarrhea (occasionally bloody), fever and vomiting. Symptoms usually occur within three days of infection and may last for a few days. Most cases resolve without serious implications, but salmonella can pose significant health risks for the elderly, young children, and individuals with compromised immunity.

The Peanut Corporation of America voluntarily recalled 21 lots of peanut butter earlier this week in the wake of multiple investigations implicating peanut butter as a likely infection source. Kellogg has voluntarily recalled some products containing peanut butter, and a distributor of peanut butter in seven states has also initiated recalls.

Most of the cases implicated in the national outbreak have occurred in nursing homes, or other institutional settings. Officials in Virginia and Idaho have joined Minnesota in reporting fatalities that could be linked to the current national outbreak.

For information concerning product recalls linked to the ongoing Salmonella typhimurium outbreak, Visit [www.kellogg.com](http://www.kellogg.com) <<http://www.kellogg.com/>>, or [www.peanutcorp.com](http://www.peanutcorp.com) <<http://www.peanutcorp.com/>>. You may also telephone (877) 564-7080.

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