



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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WILL COUNTY CASES LINKED TO STATE-WIDE SALMONELLA OUTBREAK

JOLIET – The Will County Health Department is closely monitoring illness reports in the wake of a growing salmonella outbreak responsible for at least 17 Illinois hospitalizations so far.

Will is one of at least 25 state counties involved in the outbreak as of 12 p.m. Monday. Many of the cases have origins in Central Illinois, but at least seven Chicagoland residents have also been confirmed ill.

There are two Will County cases. Persons residing in Cook, DeKalb, DuPage and Winnebago counties have also reported illness. Both of the Will County cases and virtually all of the state cases currently under investigation report eating at Subway restaurants prior to the onset of illness. Although there has been no positive or confirmed association with a specific product, the Subway Restaurant chain has voluntarily withdrawn all lettuce, green pepper, red onion, and tomato product, replacing these items with fresh produce.

State-wide investigations designed to pinpoint the origins of this current outbreak are ongoing. The outbreak is thought to have begun in early May.

Symptoms of salmonellosis (illness caused by salmonella bacteria), include diarrhea, vomiting, fever, and stomach cramps. Illness usually develops within 6 to 72 hours after exposure to salmonella bacteria. The illness may last three to seven days. Some infected individuals may have no symptoms, but may still transmit the disease to others. The spread of salmonellosis from person-to-person may be avoided by careful hand washing with soap and water after toilet use.

The Will County Health Department recommends that individuals experiencing gastrointestinal illness within 6 to 72 hours after eating should consult a health care provider regarding the advisability of treatment and testing.

For more information about salmonellosis, visit www.idph.state.il.us.



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