



Listeria monocytogenes Outbreak Associated with Ready-to-Eat Meat and Poultry Products

After Action Review Report 2025-02

Highlights

- In early 2024, public health partners investigated an [outbreak of *Listeria monocytogenes* \(*Lm*\)](#) illnesses but were unable to identify the source of the *Lm* and the investigation was closed unsolved.
- Later that same year, whole genome sequencing (WGS) of a routine FSIS product sample matched the human *Lm* isolates from the previously unsolved outbreak. With this new information, investigators reopened the investigation, identified a source of *Lm*, conducted a recall, and took control measures to prevent additional illnesses.
- FSIS investigative sampling also identified environmental and product samples from the same producer that tested positive for a second strain of *Lm* and matched additional human *Lm* isolates by WGS. This led public health partners to combine the two outbreaks into one investigation.
- These findings demonstrate the continued importance of product and environmental sampling, WGS, and epidemiological evidence in guiding investigations and solving outbreaks. Although every investigation may not identify a source of illnesses, FSIS and partners continuously collect and evaluate data that can help crack previously unsolved investigations.

Outbreak at a Glance

Illnesses	24
States included	9
Hospitalizations	22
Deaths	3

Response at a Glance

Recall or Public Health Alert	Yes
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What we Learned from this Outbreak

Product Testing and Whole Genome Sequencing



FSIS routine product sampling identified the *Lm* outbreak strain and, by comparing to historical WGS data, provided evidence to guide and solve the previously unsolved investigation. WGS data is an important and powerful tool that should continue to be used along with epidemiological and traceback data to prioritize investigative resources. Retail product testing provided important evidence during this investigation and should be considered if evidence supports specific products as the potential source of illnesses.

What Can You Do to Prevent or Solve the Next Outbreak?

Industry	Public Health Partners	Consumers
<p>Prevent contamination between raw and RTE product. Implement sanitation requirements, including during physical plant modifications, to control <i>Lm</i>. In addition, establishments must increase testing during physical plant modifications.</p> <p>Producers of RTE products should reference the FSIS Compliance Guideline for controlling <i>Lm</i> in post-lethality exposed RTE meat and poultry products for more information on complying with sanitation, HACCP, and <i>Listeria</i> rule requirements</p>	<p>Continue to work closely with local, state, and federal partners to detect and investigate outbreaks. Email FoodborneDiseaseReports@usda.gov to notify FSIS if FSIS-regulated products may be involved in an outbreak.</p>	<p>If you think you have a foodborne illness, see a health care provider for treatment. Your health care provider can test you. If the tests show you have a reportable foodborne illness, your state or local public health officials should be notified. If contacted by public health officials, provide information on foods you ate and associated purchase records. This information can provide key evidence to investigators to solve an outbreak.</p> <p>If you suspect a food product made you sick, report the problem to FSIS or the appropriate public health agency.</p>

Helpful Links

- [Investigation Update: *Listeria* Outbreak, Meat and Poultry Products, 2024 \(CDC\)](#)
- [Yu Shang Food Inc. Recalls Ready-to-Eat Meat and Poultry Products Due to Possible *Listeria* Contamination](#) (Recall 030-2024, November 9, 2024)
- [Yu Shang Food, Inc. Recalls Ready-To-Eat Meat and Poultry Products Due to Possible *Listeria* Contamination](#) (Recall 030-2024-EXP, November 21, 2024)
- [FSIS Compliance Guideline: Controlling *Listeria monocytogenes* in Post-lethality Exposed Ready-to-Eat Meat and Poultry Products](#)
- [Report a Problem with Food](#)
- [FSIS Outbreak Investigations: Response](#)