

Multistate Outbreak of *Salmonella* Mbandaka Infections Linked to Kellogg's Honey Smacks Cereal

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Updated from: July 13, 2018

Outbreak Status: Ongoing

The New Jersey Department of Health is working with the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and several other states on an outbreak of *Salmonella* Mbandaka associated with Kellogg's Honey Smacks Cereal.

- *Salmonella* Mbandaka is one of many different serotypes of *Salmonella* bacteria, which all cause similar illnesses.
- Most people infected with *Salmonella* develop diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps between 12 - 72 hours after infection and illness typically lasts 4 to 7 days.
- Individuals usually recover even without treatment however in some people, the diarrhea may be severe enough to require hospitalization.
- We encourage people to contact their health care provider if they have diarrhea that lasts for more than 3 days or if diarrhea is accompanied by high fever, blood in the stool, or so much vomiting that they cannot keep liquids down and they pass very little urine.
- *Salmonella* infection may spread from the intestines to the bloodstream and then to other places in the body.
- Children younger than 5 years, adults older than 65 years, and people with weakened immune systems are more likely to have severe illness.

Outbreak Summary:

	Case Count	States/Counties	Illness Onset Range
National	130	36	03/03/18 - 08/07/18
NJ	5	4	04/16/18 - 06/30/18

Key Points:

- As of Aug 30, 2018; 130 people have been infected from 36 states, illnesses started on dates from March 3, 2018, to August 7, 2018 and ill people range in age from less than one year to 95 yrs. with a median of 57 and sixty-nine percent are female. Out of 98 people with information available, 34 (35%) have been hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.
- Sixty-one (77%) of 79 people interviewed reported eating cold cereal of some kind in the week before their illness started and 43 people specifically reported eating Kellogg's Honey Smacks cereal.
- NJ has 5 cases associated with this outbreak from four counties; Bergen (2), Gloucester, Mercer, Sussex; illnesses started on dates from April 16, 2018 to June 30, 2018 and ill people range in age from 8 mos. to 86 yrs. and four (80%) eighty percent are male. Out of 4 people with information available, three (75%) were hospitalized. Two of the three hospitalized cases were discharged. One case with a severe pre-existing underlying medical condition expired. The cause of death was not attributed to the *Salmonella* Mbandaka infection and will not be counted as a death associated with this outbreak.

- One (25%) of the four cases for whom exposure information was available, reported eating honey smacks cereal in the week before illness onset.
- Laboratory testing identified the outbreak strain in samples of leftover Kellogg's Honey Smacks cereal collected from the homes of ill people in Montana, New York, and Utah.
- FDA initiated an inspection at the contract facility where Kellogg's Honey Smacks is manufactured and analysis of the environmental samples, were found to be a match to the outbreak strain.
- As of June 12, 2018, the manufacturing facility is no longer producing product. The FDA continues to work with the firm to address corrective actions.
- The Kellogg Company recalled all Honey Smacks products that were on the market within the cereal's one-year shelf-life however products with earlier dates could also potentially be contaminated.

Advice to Consumers/Retailers:

- Retailers should not sell or serve Kellogg's Honey Smacks cereal.
- Do not eat any Kellogg's Honey Smacks cereal, regardless of package size or best-by date. Check your home for it and throw it away or return it to the place of purchase for a refund.
- If you see Kellogg's Honey Smacks cereal available for sale, do not buy it. You can report the product to the [FDA Consumer Complaint Coordinator](#) in your region.
- Throw away any remaining cereal or return to the place of purchase for a refund or any cereal if brand or type is unknown
- Wash the container that contained the cereal with warm soapy water thoroughly before reusing
- Kellogg's Honey Smacks is a sweetened puffed wheat cereal. If you store cereal that looks like Kellogg's Honey Smacks in another container without the packaging and don't remember the brand or type, throw it away.

Additional Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/Mbandaka-06-18/index.html> (CDC)

<https://www.fda.gov/food/recallsoutbreaksemergencies/outbreaks/ucm610827.htm> (FDA)

This investigation is ongoing and additional updates will be provided as more information becomes available.