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Michigan: Rare salmonella infected Henry Ford patients

Detroit Free Press – September 30, 2015, By Robin Erb

The salmonella that is believed to have sickened 14 patients at Henry Ford Hospital last week is the "relatively rare" strain called Salmonella Isangi, according to the state health department.

It's a strain so rare, state officials have asked the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention for more information about it, said Jim Collins, director of the communicable diseases division of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Though there are no other clusters currently reported in the state or even elsewhere in the U.S., "it's got a name, so it's not unheard of," he said. Though other types of salmonella are not uncommon, Salmonella Isangi has been reported just four times in the past five years in Michigan, he added.

Still, what that means is still unclear.

Henry Ford Hospital officials are investigating the outbreak, but have released few other details including whether a source has been identified.

Collins said hospital officials reported the cases, as mandated, to the state and are currently working with state health officials to identify the cause.

"They're looking at what procedures these people received, where they stayed at the hospital, and who their health care workers were while they were there," Collins said.

While experts say salmonella is most often food-borne, Henry Ford officials say they don't believe this outbreak is food-related.

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Henry Ford Health System to build \$110M cancer center

Seven patients remained in the hospital today and had been isolated as a precaution, a statement said. The hospital did not disclose the condition of the other seven and Collins said details weren't immediately available. No new patients were identified this week, according to the hospital statement.

"Salmonella is not typically life-threatening and, in most cases, goes away in less than a week, even if untreated," the Henry Ford statement said.

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Michigan, dairy farm face off in battle over inspections, raw milk

Various strains of salmonella are estimated to cause 1 million illnesses throughout the U.S. each year, resulting in 19,000 hospitalizations and 380 deaths, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

The infections are usually traced to raw or undercooked meat, poultry, eggs or egg products, according to the Mayo Clinic. People also can get infected by touching contaminated surfaces or even pets, then putting their fingers in their mouths.

Symptoms of infection include nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, fever, chills, headache and bloody stool.

<http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2015/09/30/salmonella-henry-ford-patients-14-cases/73082812/>

Public health assessment finalized following 2010 oil spill in Calhoun, Kalamazoo counties

FOX – September 30, 2015, By Jacob Burbrink

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has finalized a public health assessment connected to the July 2010 oil spill in Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties.

A news release from MDHHS said the public health assessment evaluated the levels of oil-related chemicals in the air following the oil spill. The assessment concluded residents are not expected to experience long-term harm to their health from breathing chemicals released into the air from the spilled oil.

People who breathed oil-related chemicals in the air from the time of the spill to August 18, 2010, reported temporary health effects including: headaches, nausea, respiratory discomfort, and eye irritation. The release said by August 18, 2010, concentrations of oil-related chemicals in the air had fallen below human health screening levels that protect the public, including vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and those with preexisting illnesses.

Also in the assessment, MDHHS said air monitoring near cleanup sites in 2011 and 2012 did not find oil-related chemicals in the air at concentrations exceeding the human health screening levels.

People can read the Public Health Assessment online on the [MDHHS website](#) or at the following locations:

- Marshall District Library, located at 124 W. Green St. in Marshall
- Willard Library, located at 7 W. Van Buren St. in Battle Creek
- Galesburg Memorial Library, located at 188 E. Michigan Ave. in Galesburg