



# Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL  
Governor

MARY T. BASSETT, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner

KRISTIN M. PROUD  
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

**DATE:** October 3, 2022

**TO:** Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Clinical Laboratories, and Local Health Departments (LHDs)

**FROM:** New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Division of Epidemiology

## **HEALTH ADVISORY: Salmonella Increase in Western and Central New York State**

*For clinical staff in Epidemiology/Infection Control, Emergency Department, Infectious Disease, Medical Directors, Nursing, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, Intensive Care, Pharmacy, Laboratory Directors, Laboratory Services, and all patient care areas.*

### **SUMMARY**

- Local health departments in Western and Central NY, with the assistance of the New York State Department of Health (DOH), are investigating an increase in *Salmonella* cases reported since September 1, 2022. Since the beginning of the month, and in these regions, there have been more than 254 cases identified in comparison to 51 cases in the same timeframe in 2021.
- More than 25% of the cases reported since the beginning of September have been hospitalized.
- NYSDOH reminds providers to consider salmonellosis in the differential diagnosis of patients presenting with gastrointestinal symptoms, particularly diarrhea, abdominal pain and cramps, and fever.
- Laboratories should conduct culture on stools or reflex to culture if a culture-independent detection method is found to be positive for *Salmonella*. Isolates are requested to be forwarded to Wadsworth Center Laboratories as soon as possible for additional analyses.
- Suspect or confirmed cases of salmonellosis should be reported promptly to the local health department where the patient lives.

### **BACKGROUND**

Local health departments in Western and Central New York (NY), with the assistance of the New York State Department of Health (DOH), are investigating an increase in *Salmonella* cases reported since September 1, 2022. Cases range in age from less than 1 year old to 91 years old, with a median age of 43 years old. Of note, more than 25% of the cases reported since the beginning of the month have been hospitalized. To date, no common events exposures have been identified. Additional investigation is underway to further characterize the current increase and to determine a potential source of transmission.

## **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION AND TREATMENT**

Physicians evaluating patients presenting with gastrointestinal illness, particularly diarrhea, abdominal pain, cramps, and fever, should include salmonellosis in their differential diagnosis. Salmonellosis usually resolves within five to seven days and often does not require treatment. Those with severe diarrhea may require rehydration, often with intravenous fluids. Antibiotics are usually not necessary and not recommended except in certain circumstances such as HIV infection; immunocompromise; patients older than 50 with cardiac, valvular, endovascular abnormalities or substantial joint disease; age 65 or older; or severe illness (severe diarrhea, high/persistent fever, hospitalization).

## **TESTING**

Stool specimens should be collected as soon as possible, ideally while the patient is acutely ill. All stools positive for *Salmonella* by a culture-independent diagnostic method, such as PCR, should be reflexed to culture. All *Salmonella* isolates obtained by culture are requested to be submitted to NYSDOH Wadsworth Center Laboratory for further analysis as outlined in the 2020 Wadsworth Laboratory Reporting of Communicable Diseases [https://www.wadsworth.org/sites/default/files/WebDoc/CDRG%20NYState%202020\\_101920%202.pdf](https://www.wadsworth.org/sites/default/files/WebDoc/CDRG%20NYState%202020_101920%202.pdf).

The NYSDOH Wadsworth Center Laboratory remote order forms and shipping information are available at: <https://www.wadsworth.org/electronic-test-request-reporting-new>.

## **REPORTING**

All suspect cases and laboratory positive *Salmonella* cases should be reported immediately by telephone to the local health department where the patient resides.