



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UNIT

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To:	Health Care Providers
From:	Communicable Disease (CD) Unit 454-4114
Date:	August 26, 2008
Subject:	Local Increase in Salmonella infections

In July, there was a six-fold increase in number of salmonella infections reported to the County of Santa Cruz Communicable Disease (CD) Unit compared to the same month in the previous 6 years. The Public Health Department is working closely with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to uncover what is causing this increase. However, we need your help in finding cases and obtaining valuable information. This public health investigation is critical to protecting the public's health and keeping our food supply safe. We would like to thank the diligent providers who have considered this diagnosis and reported the cases to the CD Unit.

Please continue to consider Salmonellosis as a potential cause for patients experiencing acute diarrhea—especially when accompanied by a fever and to obtain diagnostic samples for diagnosis and serotyping.

Please report all cases of Salmonellosis to the CD Unit at **(831) 454 – 4114** or fax a **Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) to (831) 454 – 5049**.

A Public Health Nurse will be following-up with the patient to ask them questions about EVERYTHING they may have eaten during the **7 days** prior to their onset of symptoms. Since most people have a difficult time remembering what they ate two days ago, **we strongly encourage providers to request** that all suspect patients record a detailed list of what foods they ate each day for the 7 day period with specific information on when and where the food was purchased. You may want to suggest the patient use their bank or credit card statements or receipts to improve their accuracy.

If you have any questions, please contact the CD Unit.

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.