



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2011

Contact: Tom Schlueter (630) 444-3098

(630) 417-9729 cell

[www.kanehealth.com](http://www.kanehealth.com)

## **Investigation into Salmonella outbreak points to salad**

The Kane County Health Department, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the DuPage, DeKalb and Chicago health departments continue to investigate the cause of a Salmonella Typhimurium outbreak that appears to be linked to the Portillo's restaurant in St. Charles. The number of confirmed cases stands at 15, with eight from Kane County, four from 4 DuPage County, one from Chicago, one from DeKalb County, and one from Minnesota.

An exact cause of the outbreak has not been identified; however the weight of evidence leans toward the ingestion of salad. It is not known how the salad became contaminated. "Our investigation is showing that the outbreak appears to be localized," Kane County Health Department Executive Director Paul Kuehnert said. "We want to thank Portillo's, as it has cooperated thoroughly and proved to be an active partner in this investigation."

Eleven of the 15 cases reported eating at Portillo's, and seven of those reported eating a salad. Two employees have tested positive for Salmonella Typhimurium, but the investigation has identified them as likely victims of the outbreak and not the cause. A total of 76 employees have been cleared to return to work, meaning they have tested negative twice in tests conducted 48 hours apart. Food samples collected from the restaurant all tested negative. Other information about the outbreak includes

- Onset date ranged from April 5 through April 30
- 10 are female, five are male.
- Three were hospitalized

More

Salmonella Update—Page 2

Most persons infected with *Salmonella* develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12 to 72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days, and most persons recover without treatment or ever visiting a doctor. The Health Department is recommending that anyone who ate at the St. Charles Portillo's between April 5 and May 6 and had or currently has these symptoms to call the Kane County Health Department at (847) 608-2128.

###