

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Public Health Officials Warn of Salmonella Outbreak and Recall Linked to Gold Medal Brand Flour

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is working with local health departments, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate a multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Infantis infections linked to <u>Gold Medal brand flour</u> produced by General Mills of Minneapolis, MN. According to the CDC, there have been 13 illnesses reported nationwide, including three hospitalizations linked to the outbreak. Two of the cases are in Illinois.

General Mills issued a voluntary nationwide recall of two-, five- and 10-pound bags of its Gold Medal Unbleached and Bleached All Purpose Flour with a "Better if Used By" date of March 27, 2024, and March 28, 2024. No other types of Gold Medal Flour are affected by this recall at this time.

Public health officials warn consumers to check their flour that still has the packaging to see if the dates match the recall. If they put the flour in a container and don't keep the packaging, and they typically buy Gold Medal flour, they are encouraged to dispose of that rather than use it.

Symptoms of illness caused by *Salmonella* may include headache, muscle aches, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal cramping, chills, fever, nausea, and dehydration. These symptoms are usually experienced 12 to 72 hours after eating contaminated food. Children younger than five, the elderly, and people with weakened immune systems are more likely to have severe infections.

Anyone experiencing symptoms of *Salmonella* is advised to contact their healthcare provider immediately.

IDPH is working with local health departments to identify additional cases in Illinois.

For more information about foodborne illnesses from the CDC, click <u>HERE</u>.

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