



**Northwestern
Health Unit**

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Health Care Provider Advisory: Salmonella

Several Salmonella outbreaks are under investigation across Ontario and Canada currently. This update is to provide local context.

Between September 2018 and March 2019, the Northwestern Health Unit catchment area (Kenora and Rainy River Districts) had 24 confirmed cases of Salmonella, which is greater than expected. There are many subtypes of Salmonella, and subtypes are further differentiated at the genome level. Half of the cases to date have been subtype Enteritidis, while the other half have been a number of different subtypes. Three of our S. Enteritidis cases were genetically identical to one of the national outbreak strains and were investigated a second time by Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).

All cases have been investigated and to date there is no clear common source or point of connection. Geographically, cases have been distributed throughout the region. Risk factors are consistent with what is normally seen for Salmonella cases, including ingestion of chicken and eggs, and other potentially risky foods, with no consistent pattern emerging.

Currently, we are communicating with the public through social media to encourage proper cooking and handling of food, which can kill Salmonella and prevent illness, as well as hand hygiene related to food and water. NWHU continues to investigate all new cases and to collaborate with Public Health Ontario and PHAC to identify possible causes of Salmonella infection.

We will update health care providers if a specific source of infection or a specific intervention is identified.

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