



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20170111-00128-ADV (Health Advisory)
RECIPIENTS: All Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Lab, and ICPs – Pearl River, Stone, George, Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties
DATE: Wednesday, January 11, 2017

SUBJECT: *Outbreak of Gastroenteritis Public Health District IX*

Dear Colleagues,

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is investigating an outbreak of gastrointestinal illnesses associated with Captain Al's Steak and Seafood Restaurant in Gulfport, Mississippi. The reported dates of exposure were from December 16 to December 30, 2016. The restaurant was temporarily closed on January 4, 2017, and MSDH is working with the restaurant to implement procedures to safely re-open.

As of January 11, 2017 MSDH has identified more than 50 individuals with an acute gastroenteritis after eating at the restaurant. The primary symptoms reported are diarrhea (83%), stomach cramps (76%), chills (57%), headache (51%), nausea (39%), and fever (34%). Bloody stools were reported by 13% of cases. The incubation period ranges from 2 to 146.5 hours, with a median of 24 hours; the duration of illness is between 5 to 21 days, with a median of 10 days. Twenty-one people reported seeing a healthcare provider at some point during their illness, and one individual has required hospitalization.

Molecular testing at the Mississippi Public Health Laboratory has indicated that the causative organisms are types of *E. coli* referred to as enteropathogenic *E. coli* (EPEC) and enteroaggregative *E. coli* (EAEC). These types of *E. coli* are **not** Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC), but are known to cause significant diarrheal illness. Routine stool cultures are **unable** to identify EPEC and EAEC, but they can be identified through PCR testing available through reference laboratories.

Patients reporting gastrointestinal illness related to this outbreak should be treated primarily with supportive care and rehydration. In severe cases, antibiotics may be necessary for treatment. For more information related to EPEC and EAEC and for treatment recommendations (including antibiotic recommendations), please reference the chapter on *Escherichia coli* in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2016 Yellow Book Online at

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2016/infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/escherichia-coli>

Please call the MSDH Office of Epidemiology with questions or concerns at 601-576-7725.
Regards,

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist

570 East Woodrow Wilson • Post Office Box 1700 • Jackson, MS 39215-1700
601-576-8090 • 1-866-HLTHY4U • www.HealthyMS.com

Equal Opportunity in Employment/Services

Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20170111-00128-ADV
Program (HAN) Type: Health Advisory
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00128
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert**, **ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

Program (HAN) Type: Categories of Health Alert Messages.

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.

Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

Status (Type):

Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

Message Type:

Alert:	Indicates an original Alert
Update:	Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel:	Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error:	Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).