Overview of FDA’s Response and Post-Response Efforts for the Salmonella Saintpaul Outbreak

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InFORM 2013
CORE Response Team 1 began its activities on March 21, 2013 due to:

- Rare PFGE pattern (JN6X01.0161)
- Rapidly expanding number of illnesses increasing from 6 to 41 cases (within 2 weeks)
- Suspect vehicle was an FDA regulated product, tight geographic clustering of cases
- Need for CORE Response coordination with ORA, CFSAN, and CDC.
Response Actions

• CORE Response Team 1, with other FDA Offices as well as Federal and State partners coordinated:
  ★ Internal and External Communications
  ★ Samples
  ★ FDA Regulatory Actions
  ★ Investigations and inspections of implicated firms.
Response Actions

- FDA began surveillance activities of cucumbers imported by Tricar Sales Inc. in Rio Rico, Arizona.
- Traceback was performed for seven legs of the investigation
- Regulatory actions taken by FDA:
  - Recalls
  - Import Alert
Traceback

- FDA and State partners traced back seven cases. Each case was exposed to cucumbers at a unique point of service.
- Case exposure to cucumbers ranged from 1/21/13 to 4/15/13 with illness onset dates from 1/29/13 to 4/19/13.
- Six of the seven legs that were traced, converged to Tricar Sales in Rio Rico, Arizona.
Salmonella Saintpaul/Cucumbers/ML/March 2013
[January 2013 - April 2013]
MASTER TRACEBACK DIAGRAM (DRAFT)

Safeway, Sonora CA
Case # 1
Exposure dates: 1/21 and 1/24
Cucumber Brand: Garden
Illness Onset: 1/29/13

Safeway, Tracy CA
Case # 2
Exposure Dates: 2/10 and 2/24
Cucumber Brand: Garden
Illness Onset: 3/1/13

Food Co, Hartford CA
Case # 3
Exposure: 2/27/13
Cucumber Brand: Garden
Illness Onset: 3/4/13

Subway, HWY 26, Colleyville TX
Case # 4
2/26/13
Cucumber Brand: Unknown
Illness Onset: 2/27/13

Subway, Jackson CA
Case # 5
Exposure: 2/25/13
Cucumber Brand: Unknown
Illness Onset: 2/28/13

Subway, St. Cloud MN
Case # 6
Exposure: 4/15/13
Cucumber Brand: Unknown
Illness Onset: 4/19/13

West Central High School, Hartford SD
Case # 7
Exposure: Week of 2/25/13
Cucumber Brand: Unknown
Illness Onset: 3/3/13

TRICAR, Rio Rico AZ

Distribution Center # 1

Distribution Center # 2

Distribution Center # 3

Distribution Center # 4

Distribution Center # 5

Distribution Center # 6

Distributor A

Distributor B

Miracle Green House, MX

Daniel Cardenas, MX

Distributor C

Distributor D

Distributor E

Distributor F

Manufacturer

* Subway St Cloud, MN leg did not receive cucumbers from Pero Family Farms, FL during the outbreak period.
FDA Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation (CORE) 5/10/13

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Regulatory Actions

• Recalls

★ Tricar did not recall products during the outbreak due to the:
  • Inability to distinguish Tricar cucumbers from other cucumbers
  • Comingling at the Point Of Service
  • No contaminated cucumbers on the market due to shelf-life.
On April 25, 2013:

Daniel Cardenas Izabal and Miracle Greenhouses were added to Import Alert 99-23 “Detention Without Physical Examination of Raw Fresh Fruits And Vegetables From Listed Manufacturers, Shippers and/or Growers Due To The Presence Of Pathogenic Contamination“

A root cause analysis and product testing was conducted at each location.

July 17, 2013:

The firms were removed from the Import Alert.
Working with the Firm:

- Tricar Sales
  - FDA maintained consistent communication and discussions with Tricar as the outbreak investigation progressed.
- Notifications from FDA and CDC were given to industry partners before posting updates for the outbreak on the web.
Lessons Learned

• Work with CDC on when shopper card information is needed and the best method for gathering and sharing that information.
• Work with subject matter experts in FDA, CDC, and the industry to form hypotheses and determine next steps.
• Work with our international partners to help them understand traceback and how that impacts our investigations.
**CORE Communications Team:**

**Press Releases**

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Questions??