

Egg farm identified as infection source in Australian salmonellosis outbreak

Canberra's worst salmonellosis outbreak traced to eggs

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Source <http://www.wattagnet.com/159469.html>

An [egg producer](#) in the Australian state of Victoria is being investigated as part of efforts to identify the source of an outbreak of salmonellosis that affected 140 people and hospitalized 15 who had eaten mayonnaise at a restaurant in Canberra.

The outbreak first emerged in mid May and, at the height of the investigation, Australian Capital Territory Health had up to 30 people working on the case at any given time. Emergency response protocols were activated at Canberra Hospital and Calvary Hospital in response to the increasing number of people affected.

Dr. Paul Kelly, ACT chief health officer, commented that he had been struck by the symptoms of the outbreak and the attack rate, and that almost everyone who ate at the restaurant fell ill. Of those treated all had diarrhea, 94 percent presented with abdominal cramps and 92 had fever. One person has ongoing problems related to the infection.

Veterinary inspections are ongoing at the egg farm.

Salmonella poisoning outbreak in Australia

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DICKSON, Australia, May 15 (UPI) -- At least 100 people have been diagnosed with salmonella poisoning after eating at a new restaurant in Australia, health officials said.

The people became ill after eating at The Copa Brazilian Churrasco restaurant in Dickson during the weekend.

The customers were treated for symptoms of salmonella poisoning, including diarrhea, stomach cramps and fever.

Hospitals called in extra staff to deal with the outbreak, the Australian Broadcasting Corp. said.

"It's put a lot of stress on the emergency department. The emergency departments of both hospitals have been extremely busy over the last month so to have something like this really tests that system," Australian Capital Territory Health Chief Health Officer Dr. [Paul Kelly](#) said.

Kelly said health investigators are working with the restaurant's staff to identify the cause of the illnesses.

"The issue with this particular restaurant being buffet style is that pretty much everyone ate everything," he said.

Health officials are investigating a second, unrelated food poisoning outbreak at an undisclosed restaurant in the same area.

About 60 patrons of that restaurant have come down with a mild form of gastroenteritis.

Both restaurants are closed, the ABC reported.