Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK
Advisory

TO: Nebraska Healthcare Providers, Local Health Departments, and Veterinarians

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RE: Advisory Regarding Multistate Outbreak of Human *Salmonella* Montevideo Infections Linked to Live Poultry

DATE: June 28, 2012

We are asking Nebraska veterinarians, local health departments, and healthcare providers to be proactive within their communities to disseminate resources to promote prevention of human *Salmonella* infections associated with live poultry. Hands should always be washed thoroughly with soap and water right after touching live poultry or anything in the area where poultry live and roam. Adults should supervise hand washing for young children. Mail-order hatcheries, agricultural feed stores, and others who sell or display chicks, ducklings and other live poultry should provide health-related information to owners and potential purchasers of these birds prior to the point of purchase. This should include information about the risk of acquiring a *Salmonella* infection from contact with live poultry. An appropriate prevention document is attached. For a color version to display, the original document can be accessed here: http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/resources/salmonella-baby-poultry.pdf. A Spanish version is available here: http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/resources/posters.htm. Additional recommendations for prevention of *Salmonella* infections are available here: http://www.cdc.gov/Features/SalmonellaBabyBirds.

Public health and agriculture officials in many states including Nebraska, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are investigating an outbreak of human *Salmonella* Montevideo infections linked to chicks and ducklings from Estes Hatchery in Springfield, Missouri. As of June 25, 2012, a total of 66 persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Montevideo have been reported from 20 states including 5 in Nebraska. Among the persons who reported the date they became ill, illnesses began between February 28, 2012 and June 6, 2012. Infected individuals range in age from less than one year old to 83 years old, and 35% of ill persons are 10 years of age or younger. Among 43 ill persons with available information, 16 (37%) have been hospitalized. Thirty-nine (85%) of 46 ill persons interviewed reported contact with live poultry (e.g., chicks, chickens, ducks, ducklings, turkeys) before becoming ill. Of these 39 persons, 38 (97%) reported contact with chicks or ducklings or both. Thirty (83%) of 36 ill persons with available purchase information reported purchasing live baby poultry from various locations of 13 different agricultural feed store companies in multiple states. Additionally, 5 (14%) reported purchasing baby poultry directly from mail-order hatcheries. Because the potential for *Salmonella* infection exists wherever live baby poultry are sold, and not just at one feed store, prevention recommendations apply wherever poultry are sold. Ill persons reported purchasing live poultry for backyard flocks to produce eggs or meat, or to keep as pets.

After you touch ducklings or chicks, wash your hands so you don't get sick!

- Contact with live poultry (chicks, chickens, ducklings, ducks, geese, and turkeys) can be a source of human *Salmonella* infections.
- *Salmonella* germs can cause a diarrheal illness in people that can be mild, severe, or even life threatening.
- Chicks, ducklings, and other live poultry can carry *Salmonella* germs and still appear healthy and clean.
- *Salmonella* germs are shed in their droppings and can easily contaminate their bodies and anything in areas where birds live and roam.

Protect Yourself and Your Family from Germs

DO:

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water right after touching live poultry or anything in the area where they live and roam.
  - Adults should supervise hand washing for young children.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer until you are able to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- Clean any equipment or materials associated with raising or caring for live poultry outside the house, such as cages or feed or water containers.

DON'T:

- Don't let children younger than 5 years of age, elderly persons, or people with weak immune systems handle or touch chicks, ducklings, or other live poultry.
- Don't let live poultry inside the house, in bathrooms, or especially in areas where food or drink is prepared, served, or stored, such as kitchens, or outdoor patios.
- Don't snuggle or kiss the birds, touch your mouth, or eat or drink around live poultry.

For more information, call **1-800-CDC-INFO** or visit **www.cdc.gov.**

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Si toca pollitos o patitos, ¡lávese las manos para no enfermarse!

- El contacto con aves de corral vivas (como pollitos, gallinas, patitos, patos, gansos y pavos) puede ser una fuente de infecciones por *Salmonella* en las personas.
- Las bacterias de *Salmonella* pueden causar en las personas enfermedades con diarrea desde leves hasta graves o incluso la muerte.
- Los pollitos, los patitos y otras aves de corral vivas pueden ser portadoras de *Salmonella* aun cuando se vean sanas y limpias.
- Las bacterias de *Salmonella* se liberan en los excrementos y pueden contaminar fácilmente el cuerpo de las aves, al igual que las áreas que habitan y frecuentan.

Protéjanse usted y su familia de los microbios

LO QUE DEBE HACER:

- Lavarse las manos cuidadosamente con agua y jabón inmediatamente después de tocar aves de corral vivas o cualquier objeto ubicado en el área en que habitan o frecuentan.
  - Los adultos deben vigilar que los niños pequeños se laven bien las manos.
  - Si no hay agua ni jabón, use un producto limpiador para manos hasta que se las pueda lavar bien con agua y jabón.
- Limpie todos los equipos o materiales fuera de la casa que use en el cuidado y crianza de las aves de corral, como las jaulas o los recipientes para agua o alimentos.

LO QUE NO DEBE HACER:

- No deje que los niños menores de 5 años de edad, los ancianos o las personas que tengan sistemas inmunitarios debilitados toquen o agarren pollitos, patitos o cualquier tipo de aves de corral.
- No mantenga aves de corral dentro de su casa, en los baños y en especial tampoco en áreas donde se preparan, sirven o almacenan alimentos y bebidas, como la cocina o los patios.
- No abrace ni bese a las aves; no se toque la boca, ni coma o beba cerca de aves de corral vivas.

Para más información, llame al **1-800-CDC-INFO** o visite **www.cdc.gov.**

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