

Diseases and conditions reported during July 02-15, 2023:

This report is a bi-monthly snapshot of communicable diseases reported in El Paso County, as well as a report of disease trends and local health alerts. El Paso County Public Health's (EPCPH) Communicable Disease Program partners with the medical community and the public to limit and reduce the spread of diseases in our community.

Reportable diseases and conditions:

- 17 Animal Bites – 8 pediatric, 9 adults; 5 recommended to receive rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- 10 Campylobacteriosis – 3 pediatric, 7 adults
- 2 Carbapenem-Resistant enterobacterales (CRE) - adults
- 1 Carbapenem-Resistant Pseudomonas Aeruginosa (CRPA) - adult
- 631 COVID-19 – 131 pediatric, 500 adults
- 1 Cryptosporidiosis - adult
- 3 Giardiasis – 1 pediatric, 2 adults
- 1 Pertussis - adult
- 8 Salmonellosis – 2 pediatric, 6 adults
- 7 Shigellosis – 2 pediatric, 5 adults
- 1 Shiga Toxin Producing E. coli (STEC) - pediatric
- 2 Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive - adults
- 1 Varicella - pediatric
- 12 West Nile Virus - adults

Additional reports:

- Animals positive for rabies 2023 Year to Date: 1 (bat)
- Outbreaks reported—1 Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease outbreak associated with a school, 1 COVID-19 outbreak associated with a childcare facility, 2 COVID-19 outbreaks associated with schools.

For a list of reportable diseases and conditions and instructions on how to report, follow this [link](#).

Health News: Salmonella- review, recent multistate outbreaks, and regional trends

Salmonella review

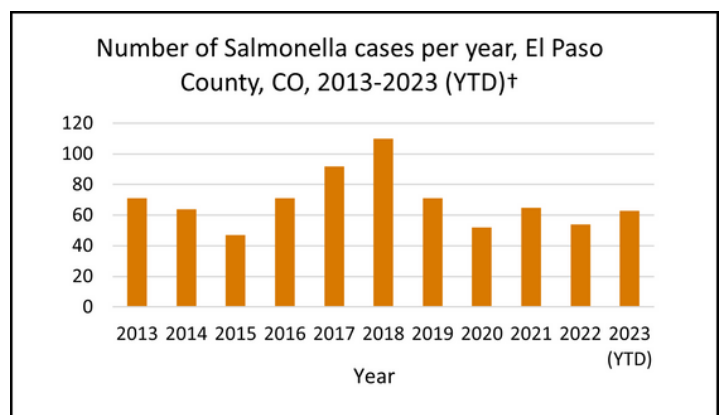
- Salmonella causes bacterial gastroenteritis. The incubation period is ranges from 6 hours to 6 days and symptoms include diarrhea, fever, and abdominal pain which typically last 4-7 days. .
- Salmonella infection can cause more severe disease in some individuals including bacteremia or infection of bones, joints, or the urinary tract. Those at higher risk for these complications include infants, adults aged 65 years and older, and people with a weakened immune system.
- Most people recover without treatment, but antibiotic treatment is recommended for people with severe illness, a weakened immune system, infants, and adults ages 65 or older.
- People and animals with Salmonella infection excrete Salmonella bacteria in their stool. Exposure to Salmonella can occur by:
 - Eating contaminated food or drinking contaminated water.
 - Touching infected animals, their feces, or their environment.
 - Many animals infected with Salmonella do not get ill and can excrete Salmonella bacteria in their stool even when they appear healthy and clean. That bacteria can easily spread to the animal's skin, fur, or feathers as well as the animal's environments.
 - Animals that can spread Salmonella to people include poultry, wild birds, reptiles, amphibians, rodents, hedgehogs, and farm animals such as goats, cows, sheep, and pigs.

Recent multistate outbreaks

- The CDC is actively investigating two multistate outbreaks linked to animals.
 - [Salmonella outbreak linked to small turtles](#): A total of 26 people from 11 states are known to be associated with the outbreak, with illness onset dates ranging from October 2022 through July 2023. Though no cases in Colorado have been identified, the true number of cases is likely much higher than the number reported and may not be limited to states with known illnesses.
 - [Salmonella outbreak linked to backyard poultry](#): A total of 690 people from 47 states, including Colorado, are known to be associated with the outbreak, with illness onset dates ranging from January 2023 through July 2023.
- Recommendations to prevent transmission of Salmonella from animals include:
 - Always wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and running water immediately after touching animals or their feces, their food or items in their environment.
 - Children under 5 years old should not handle reptiles, amphibians, rodents, and poultry as children under 5 years old are most likely to get a Salmonella infection.
 - Avoid eating or drinking around animals or in areas they live and roam to avoid incidental food or drink contamination.
 - Don't buy tiny turtles, or turtles with shells less than four inches long. Though a federal law bans their sale, they are still sometimes sold illegally.

Regional Trends

- From 2013 to 2022, an average of 70 of Salmonella cases per year were reported in El Paso County.
- To date in 2023, there have been 63 cases of Salmonella reported. Cases occur more commonly during the summer months, typically peaking in July and August.
 - Of the 63 cases reported in 2023, 10 (16 percent) were under 5 years old. While not confirmed as the source of their illness, 5 of those 10 children had contact with either a reptile, an amphibian, or poultry during their exposure period.



†Data from 2022 and 2023 are preliminary. Year to date data from 2023 is current through September 2, 2023.

Questions? Please Contact:

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 Reportable Diseases and Conditions List