



Protecting, Maintaining and Improving the Health of All Minnesotans

September 30, 2019

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BY: _____

Ms. Michelle Passater, MPH
Marler Clark Law Firm
The Standard Building
1012 1st Avenue, Fifth Floor
Seattle, Washington 98104-1008

RE: Request for Public Records – General Outbreak

Dear Ms. Passater,

Enclosed are copies of the Minnesota Department of Health records specifically requested regarding the outbreak investigation of *Salmonella* at the Green Mill Restaurant & Bar, Bloomington, Minnesota, March – April 2019.

Please do not hesitate to call me at (651) 201-5674 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kelley Vilen'.

Kelley Vilen, MPH
Epidemiologist
Foodborne Diseases Unit
Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention and Control Division
Post Office Box 64975
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975



Protecting, Maintaining and Improving the Health of All Minnesotans

***Salmonella* Braenderup Infections Associated with the Green Mill**

Hennepin County

April 2019

Background

On April 19, 2019, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Public Health Laboratory (PHL) determined that two clinical *Salmonella* Braenderup isolates submitted through routine surveillance had indistinguishable pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) patterns (Minnesota designation BR134). Initial interviews with these cases revealed that both had eaten food from the Green Mill in Bloomington in the week before their illness onset. City of Bloomington Environmental Health Division (CBEH) was notified, and an investigation was initiated.

Methods

Cases were defined as individuals who tested positive for *S. Braenderup* with PFGE pattern BR134, or a Green Mill – Bloomington patron who developed diarrhea (≥ 3 stools in a 24-hour period) that was at least 3 days in duration or was accompanied by a fever, after eating food from the restaurant. Stool samples collected from consenting individuals were submitted to the MDH PHL for bacterial and viral testing. PFGE and whole genome sequencing (WGS) was performed on isolates.

MDH staff collected online orders, information for catering groups, and receipts from April 5, 8, 9, and 10, and patrons were called to find additional cases and controls.

All restaurant employees were required to submit two stool samples to the MDH PHL for *Salmonella* testing. Any employee reporting illness on or after March 15 was excluded from work in food service until two consecutive stool samples tested negative for *Salmonella* by culture. Employees who tested positive for *Salmonella* by culture were excluded until two consecutive stool samples tested negative.

Results

Eighty-nine restaurant patrons and 18 additional catered training event attendees were interviewed. Seven cases (7%) were identified, including five laboratory-confirmed cases. Two patrons reported illness but did not meet the case definition and were excluded from further analysis. Cases reported meal dates of March 22 (n=1), April 5 (n=3), April 8 (n=4), April 9 (n=3), April 10 (n=3). Four cases had 2 to 3 meal dates. Onsets of illness ranged from March 29 to April 16. The median age of cases was 39 years (range, 6 to 65 years), and four (57%) cases were male. All seven cases reported diarrhea and cramps, five (71%) fever, one (14%) vomiting, and one (14%) bloody stool. Four (57%) cases visited a healthcare provider, but none were hospitalized or died. The median incubation for the three cases with only one meal date was 115 hours (range, 1.5 to 175 hours).

MDH ID/Accession	Last Name	First Name	Collection	Specimen source	Pathogen	Serotype	PFGE
I2019005522			4/14/2019	Stool	Salmonella	Braenderup	BR134
I2019005529			4/14/2019	Stool	Salmonella	Braenderup	BR134
I2019006243			4/25/2019	Stool	Salmonella	Braenderup	BR134
I2019005611			4/16/2019	Stool	Salmonella	Braenderup	BR134
I2019006250			4/24/2019	Stool	Salmonella	Braenderup	BR134
I2019006083			7/22/2019	Stool	Salmonella	Braenderup	BR134
I2019006331			4/22/2019	Stool	Salmonella	Braenderup	BR135

BR134 Cluster	I2019005522	I2019005529	I2019005611	I2019006083	I2019006250	E2019006331	I2019006243
I2019005522	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I2019005529	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I2019005611	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I2019006083	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I2019006250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E2019006331	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I2019006243	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

From: [MN MDH PFGE](#)
To: [Vilen, Kelley \(MDH\)](#); [Colbert, Kelly Jo \(MNIT\)](#)
Subject: Salmonella braenderup BioNumerics WGS alleles
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:27:54 PM

Hi Kelley and Kelly,

I wasn't sure which epi to notify.

We looked at the Salmonella Braenderup BR134 cluster with BioNumerics WGS. There are all 0 alleles different by cgMLST BioNumerics 7.6 analysis.

	I2019005522	I2019005529	I2019005611	I2019006083	I2019006250
I2019005522	0	0	0	0	0
I2019005529	0	0	0	0	0
I2019005611	0	0	0	0	0
I2019006083	0	0	0	0	0
I2019006250	0	0	0	0	0

Thanks,
Selina

From: [MN MDH PFGE](#)
To: [Vilen, Kelley \(MDH\)](#)
Subject: BR134
Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 8:50:16 AM

Hi Kelley,

Your Salmonella Braenderup cluster (wBR2019001) has one new isolate confirmed by WGS: I6243. It is 0 alleles from other isolates in this cluster.

Best,

Liz

From: MN_MDH_PFGE
To: Vilen, Kelley (MDH); MN_MDH_PFGE
Subject: RE: BR134 cluster
Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 1:34:30 PM

We found out that I6331 was contaminated by sequencing analysis and at that time PFGE pattern for this isolate was BR135. So we re-isolated it and re-sequenced showing 0 allele different with other isolates. However, we have been having some technical issues with PFGE on several Salmonella isolates and this is one of them that we can't solve the problem. Please ignore the PFGE results on this and I will edit the results in LIMS.

Sorry for the confusion Kelly,
Jisun

From: Vilen, Kelley (MDH) <kelley.vilen@state.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2019 1:27 PM
To: MN_MDH_PFGE <Health.PFGE@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: BR134 cluster

Hi,

The print out form I2019006331 says the PFGE pattern is BR135. All the other specimens in this outbreak had BR134. Was this a typo or is the PFGE pattern different for this specimen?

Thanks,

Kelley

Kelley Vilen, MPH

Epidemiologist | Foodborne Diseases Unit

Office: 651-201-5674



From: MN_MDH_PFGE <Health.PFGE@state.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 3:19 PM
To: Vilen, Kelley (MDH) <kelley.vilen@state.mn.us>
Subject: BR134 cluster

Hi Kelley,

I just would like to update for your BR134 cluster. I5522, I5529, I5611 and **E6331** are 0 allele difference.

Thank you,

Jisun