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For Immediate Release

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***Salmonella* Cases Associated with Stuffed Chicken Products**

State health officials are reminding consumers to thoroughly cook raw chicken after four Wisconsin residents were infected with a strain of *Salmonella* linked to raw, frozen, stuffed chicken products. The Wisconsin cases are part of a multistate *Salmonella* outbreak that has caused 32 illnesses in 12 states.

In response to the outbreak, the USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service has alerted consumers that raw, frozen, breaded and pre-browned stuffed chicken entrees such as chicken cordon blue and chicken kiev may appear to be pre-cooked, but are not. These products are made from raw chicken and should be prepared according to the label instructions to help prevent illness.

Consumers should cook these products in a conventional oven following package instructions, and use a meat thermometer to ensure that the internal temperature of the chicken reaches at least 165°F before consuming. The products should not be cooked in a microwave oven.

Since August, four Wisconsin residents have had laboratory-confirmed *Salmonella* infections that match the DNA fingerprints of the national outbreak strain. The four Wisconsin residents reported consuming frozen chicken products. Health officials will continue to monitor for additional cases.

Milwaukee County	Adult male
Ozaukee County	Adult male
Washington County	School-age male Adult female

Consumption of food contaminated with *Salmonella* can cause salmonellosis, which typically lasts 4 to 7 days. Most people infected with *Salmonella* develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps within 8 to 72 hours; some individuals may experience vomiting.

Since the organism is passed in the feces, and person-to-person spread of the bacteria is possible, people should follow proper hand washing methods. People should always carefully wash their hands with plenty of soap and water after bowel movements, and before and after food preparation. Parents should stress proper hand washing habits to their children. If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol hand sanitizer.

For more information about salmonellosis, go to:
http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/factsheets/PDFfactsheets/Salmonellosis_42088_0504.pdf

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