

Englewood Health

Nelson Xavier Cruz, MS, MBA
Director of Health Services, Health Officer



Department of

Email: ncruz@cityofenglewood.org

Investigation Update: Outbreak of Human *Salmonella* Typhimurium Infections Associated with Contact with Water Frogs

CDC is collaborating with public health officials in many states to investigate a multistate outbreak of human *Salmonella* serotype Typhimurium infections due to contact with water frogs including African Dwarf Frogs. Water frogs commonly live in aquariums or fish tanks. Amphibians such as frogs and reptiles such as turtles, are recognized as a source of human *Salmonella* infections. In the course of routine assessment, a number of cases with the same strain have been identified over many months. As of **11:59pm EST on December 9, 2009**, 50 individuals infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Typhimurium have been reported from 25 states.

ADVICE TO CONSUMERS

- Always wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after touching any amphibian (e.g., frog) or reptile (e.g., turtle), their housing, or anything (for example, food) that comes in contact with them or their housing. Adults should assist young children with hand washing.
- Watch for symptoms of *Salmonella* infection, such as diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps. Call your health care provider if you or a family member has any of these symptoms.

Persons who should avoid contact with amphibians and reptiles and their habitats (e.g., aquarium, fish tank, or terrarium)

- Persons at increased risk for serious infection from salmonellosis are children < 5 years old, elderly persons, and persons with weakened immune systems.
- These persons should avoid contact with amphibians (e.g., frogs) and reptiles (e.g., turtles) and anything that comes in contact with them (e.g., aquarium, habitat, and water).
- *Keep amphibians and reptiles out of homes with children < 5 years old or people with weakened immune systems.*

Placement and maintenance of habitats

- Amphibians (e.g., frogs) and reptiles (e.g., turtles) should not be kept in child-care centers.
- Habitats containing amphibians or reptiles should not be kept in a child's bedroom, especially children aged < 5 years.
- *Do not allow amphibians or reptiles to roam freely through the house, especially in food preparation areas.*
- *Keep amphibians and reptiles out of kitchens and other areas where food and drink is prepared or served to prevent contamination.*
- *Habitats and their contents should be carefully cleaned outside of the home. Use disposable gloves when cleaning and do not dispose of water in sinks used for food preparation or for obtaining drinking water.*
- *Do not bathe animals or their habitats in your kitchen sink. If bathtubs are used for these purposes, they should be thoroughly cleaned afterward. Use bleach to disinfect a tub or other place where reptile or amphibian habitats are cleaned.*
- *Children aged < 5 years should not clean habitats.*
- *Always wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after cleaning habitats.*

73 South Van Brunt Street, Englewood, New Jersey 07631 · Telephone (201) 568-3450 / Telefax (201)
568-5738

Web Site: www.cityofenglewood.org/health.html · Email: healthadmin@cityofenglewood.org