



CHICKAHOMINY HEALTH NEWS

NEWSWORTHY

NATION/STATE

Salmonella and tomatoes

One of the bigger ongoing health-related news story as of late has been the association of an uncommon strain of Salmonella infection with consumption of a variety of tomatoes. From mid-April and as of June 17, 277 persons have been identified with Salmonellosis due to the strain Salmonella Saintpaul across 28 states and the District of Columbia. 43 of these case-patients have been hospitalized. Texas and New Mexico residents make up ~49% of the cases, while Virginia is ranked 5th with 16 cases.



Current CDC and FDA investigations have not pinpointed the source of contaminated tomatoes. However, the FDA website has updated listings for states and countries where tomatoes distributed from those areas are safe to eat. Please see either the CDC or FDA website for more information.

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SPOTLIGHT: TULAREMIA

Tularemia, caused by the bacterium *Francisella tularensis*, is a zoonotic ("from animals") disease that is rare in the state of Virginia (five cases in last 5 years). It has historically been called rabbit fever and presents a variety of clinical presentations including: ulceroglandular; oculoglandular; oropharyngeal; intestinal; typhoidal and pneumonic.

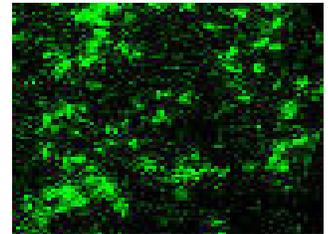
Reservoirs (i.e. carriers) of tularemia are small mammals such as mice, squirrels, rabbits, hares, and possibly cats. The bacterium is able to survive at low temperatures in water, wet soil, hay, and decaying animal carcasses.

Transmission to humans can occur through direct contact with

infected animals or contaminated soil, inhalation of aerosolized bacterium, or infected ticks or deerflies bites. There is no person-to-person transmission.

Preferred treatment for adults includes streptomycin and gentamicin. Doxycycline is the recommended prophylaxis for potentially exposed persons.

Because this bacterium has a very low (~10 organisms) infective dose and it has the ability to be aerosolized, *F. tularensis* is listed as a Category A bioterrorism agent. Therefore, please report any suspected cases of tularemia to the local health department by the most rapid means available.



Direct fluorescent antibody stain of *Francisella tularensis* (Photo courtesy of CDC PHIL)



Jackrabbit (Photo courtesy of nationalgeographic.com)

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

What we are seeing in Chickahominy:

May '08 Reported Diseases

1 case of tularemia in a 2 year old boy (natural occurrence through tick-bite)

1 case of Ehrlichiosis in a 20 year old man

1 acute case of Hepatitis C in a 29 year old man

2 MRSA, invasive

