

PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE HEART OF VIRGINIA

NEWSWORTHY

NATION/STATE

State and federal public health officials are currently investigating a multi-state outbreak of Salmonella Wandsworth. So far, they have generated the hypothesis that the infected persons were statistically associated with consumption of Robert's American Gourmet brand Veggie Booty snack chips. No cases have been found in the state of Virginia. Salmonella Wandsworth is a relatively rare species usually causing bloody diarrhea with fever and/or abdominal cramps. The company that processes these snacks is currently recalling all Veggie Booty products.

Have you received the updated Regulations for Disease Reporting and Control and the Virginia Reportable Disease List yet?

The latest versions were mailed in late Spring. The reportable list is accessible online (visit the VDH website). Please contact the district office if you need the updates.

Contact Us

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SPOTLIGHT: TICK-BORNE DISEASES - LYME AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the state of Virginia is seeing a rise in the number of tick-borne diseases being reported, compared to last year. In the June 29, 2007 issue of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), 219 Lyme disease cases were reported.* This is more than five times higher than numbers reported around this time last year (YTD 2006 cases totaled 30).

The state of Virginia is also seeing twice as many cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) this year compared to

last year (YTD 2007 is 39, YTD 2006 was 19).

So far in our health district this year, there have been 3 cases of Lyme disease and 2 cases of RMSF (laboratory-confirmed cases which fit the CDC case definitions of Probable or Confirmed).

Current CDC guidelines recommend a two-test approach for Lyme disease (EIA then Western Blot); RMSF is usually determined using two serum samples taken at least 3 weeks apart (IFA, CF, LA, MA, or IHA).

* All cases are provisional.



Deer tick (Ixodes species), a Lyme disease vector



American dog tick (Dermacentor species), a RMSF vector

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE 2007

Reported Diseases for June 2007:

2 animals tested positive for rabies, which led to the administration of 7 post-exposure treatment series

1 person met the case definition of Lyme disease

1 child with an elevated blood lead level

2 Salmonella Enteritidis infections, which were not connected

1 Shigella flexneri infection

Year to Date Analysis of Selected Communicable Diseases for Piedmont Health District

