

Listeria monocytogenes/Prepared Pasta Meals/Feb 2025 - CARA ID 1290

On 02/04/2025, the Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation (CORE) Signals Team was notified by CDC of a *Listeria monocytogenes* cluster (2410MLGX6-1). On 03/31/2025, the FDA Human Foods Programs Bioinformatics team notified CORE Signals that a food isolate recovered by United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA/FSIS) was uploaded to the National Center for Biotechnology Center (NCBI) matching this cluster. The food isolate was recovered from a chicken fettuccine alfredo pasta sample collected on 03/19/2025 from FreshRealm LLC, Indianapolis, Indiana. On 06/17/2025, chicken fettuccine alfredo was initially confirmed as a vehicle for this outbreak because four cases with clinical isolates matching by whole genome sequencing (WGS) reported exposure to the product, manufactured at FreshRealm. The fettuccine used in the chicken fettuccine alfredo was manufactured at Nates Fine Foods. On 06/17/2025, FreshRealm initiated a voluntary recall with USDA/FSIS. CORE issued five assignments for various manufacturers, including the manufacturer of the Ready to eat (RTE) pasta and manufacturer of the RTE alfredo sauce used in the chicken fettuccine alfredo. On 9/23/2025, FDA was notified that third party testing of a finished product assembled at the FreshRealm Lancaster, Texas, location on 09/15/2025 matched by WGS to the outbreak strain; subsequent results shared with FDA included multiple closed linguine ingredient samples supplied to FreshRealm by Nates Fine Foods that also yielded the outbreak strain of *Listeria monocytogenes*. On 09/25/2025, Nates Fine Foods initiated a recall and on 09/30/2025, expanded the recall. Of the eight cases occurring after 10/01/2025, seven reported purchasing products from (b)(4), including one known purchase of celery grain salad that was prepared using mixed grains and almonds from Nates Fine Foods. However, only limited exposure information was available for these later cases, and we were unable to confirm a second vehicle. Additionally, a single case from January 2025 was confirmed in October 2025 to have consumed a RTE pasta salad assembled with farfalle manufactured at Nates Fine Foods. Based on epidemiologic, traceback, and laboratory evidence, prepared pasta meals was confirmed as a vehicle for this outbreak, though other vehicles were suspected. USDA/FSIS conducted intensified verification testing during this outbreak investigation. FDA collected 52 samples during the investigation, and the outbreak strain was not identified in FDA samples. As of 02/27/2026, a total of 28 cases were reported from 19 states: AZ (1), CA (3), FL (1), HI (2), IL (1), IN (1), LA (2), MI (2), MN (1), MO (1), NV (1), NC (1), OH (1), OR (3), SC (1), TX (3), UT (1), VA (1), WA (1)