Salmonella Javiana/Jalapeno Pepper/Jul 2026 - CARA ID 1395

On 7/10/2026, FDA/CORE was notified by the FDA Minneapolis District Emergency Response Coordinator of an emerging cluster of *Salmonella* Javiana cases with a signal for Chipotle Mexican Grill, (b)(5) CORE conducted a traceback investigation for jalapeno peppers that were reportedly consumed in meal items by 38 cases prior to illness which had been purchased from 15 points of service (POS). Supply chain convergence was identified for 14 of 15 POS (corresponding to 37 illnesses) for jalapeno peppers distributed by Coast Citrus Distributors (San Diego, CA), supplied by (b)(4), and grown by (b)(4) (Sinaloa, MX) at (b)(4) ranch. In addition to issuing three assignments for traceback record collection, between 9/7-9/15/2026, an FDA team conducted an inspection at (b)(4). A 483 was issued noting personnel, sanitation, and cross-contamination issues. Between 7/27-9/10/2026, FDA collected two jalapeno pepper retail samples associated with QDOBA and Chipotle locations of interest, an environmental sample, and four dead-end ultrafiltration (DEUF) water samples from (b)(4). State partners and Chipotle Mexican Grill HQ also collected retail samples of produce items from Chipotle locations of interest. All samples were negative for *Salmonella*. On 7/22/2026, Coast Citrus Distributors initiated a limited recall of jalapeno peppers, which was expanded on 8/5/2026 to include all remaining jalapeno peppers imported from (b)(4). On 9/24/2026, (b)(4) was added to the red list of Import Alert 99-35, Detention Without Physical Examination of Fresh Produce That Appears to Have Been Prepared, Packed or Held Under Insanitary Conditions. Due to strong epidemiological association and traceback convergence, jalapeno peppers distributed by Coast Citrus Distributors, supplied by (b)(4) and grown by (b)(4) at (b)(4) ranch were confirmed as the outbreak vehicle. As of 10/2/2026, this outbreak included 488 cases in 34 states: AL (7), AR (1), CA (2), CO (132), FL (1), GA (43), HI (1), IA (1), IL (35), IN (6), KS (14), KY (2), LA (1), MI (5), MN (133), MO (9), MT (8), NC (6), ND (2), NE (6), NJ (1), NM (6), OH (4), OK (9), PA (3), SC (8), TN (9), TX (5), UT (1), VA (3), WA (1), WV (2), WI (12), and WY (9), with 65 hospitalizations and 0 deaths.