

# Current Salmonella Outbreak: 172 Ill in 18 States Possibly linked to tomatoes



from the Associated Press, Manchester Union Leader (NH) and Spartanburg Herald-Journal (SC)

No one has died in this current outbreak, which has been caused by a common form of salmonella bacteria. Eleven people have been hospitalized, health officials said. "We're very early in the investigation," said Dave Daigle, a spokesman for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC first detected the outbreak two weeks ago through a national computer lab system that looks for patterns and matches in reports of food-borne illness. Most of the cases are in adults, and more than **60 percent** are women. The cases are distributed throughout the U.S. which makes it likely that it is not a locally-produced product that has caused the problem. The source is likely to have an interstate distribution. Seven of the eight New Hampshire residents had eaten fresh tomatoes, said Gregory P. Moore, spokesman for the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. "**This is obviously a national outbreak,**" Moore said.



- Ask suppliers what they are doing for food safety -- how they are handling the produce you buy?
- Tomatoes have been linked to **11 outbreaks** in the US since 1990. In 2004 **more than 500** people were ill from Salmonella-contaminated tomatoes
- Tomatoes can have bacteria like Salmonella inside them if water used to wash them is contaminated
- There are approximately **1.3 million** cases of salmonellosis linked to food each year