



## NEWS RELEASE

### ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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### Foodborne outbreak investigation confirms 14 with *Salmonella*

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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As part of the Alabama Department of Public Health's continuing investigation of a foodborne disease outbreak in Russellville, the Bureau of Clinical Laboratories has confirmed 14 specimens that are positive for *Salmonella*.

People who reported gastrointestinal illnesses after eating food prepared at El Patron restaurant in Russellville on June 4 and 5 were interviewed. None of those interviewed are hospitalized.

*Salmonella* symptoms usually occur within 6 and 72 hours after infection. Most people recover without treatment. Symptoms of *Salmonella* are diarrhea, nausea and vomiting, abdominal cramping and fever.

Assistant State Health Officer Dr. Karen Landers emphasizes that people should reduce their risk of *Salmonella* by avoiding raw or undercooked eggs, poultry or other meats, thoroughly washing produce, and following safe food handling practices during food preparation. Hand washing, keeping uncooked food away from cooked food, and using clean plates and utensils are some important ways to minimize food contamination. People should also wash their hands after contact with animals and animal feces.

Final test results will be available at a later date. As of June 20, El Patron remains closed.