

# ALERT: Two Listeria Outbreaks

January 29, 2016

Peterborough County-City  
**HEALTH UNIT**  
...because health matters!

ATTENTION: Health Care Providers

Public Health Ontario (PHO) is collaborating with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and other local, provincial and federal public health authorities to investigate cases of *Listeria monocytogenes* that have occurred in Ontario. Based on pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) patterns, some of these cases are a part of a federally-led, multi-provincial outbreak investigation, while others are part of an Ontario-led outbreak investigation. The federally-led and provincially-led outbreaks have two different, unrelated PFGE patterns.

- [Federally-led outbreak](#): Of the seven cases in this outbreak, three are from Ontario. This outbreak is also linked by PFGE to an outbreak in the United States. The source for this outbreak investigation has been confirmed to be certain Dole and PC Organics brand of pre-packaged leafy green products that were [recalled](#) on January 22, 2016. PFGE testing of food samples from the Dole plant has identified an additional PFGE pattern, which is closely related to a PFGE pattern found in four Ontario listeriosis cases reported between May and December, 2015. Further investigations into some of these cases are ongoing to determine if they ate salad products from the Dole plant.
- [Provincially-led outbreak](#): There are seven cases from Ontario that are part of the provincially-led investigation. To date, the source of illness for cases in this investigation has not been confirmed. However, leafy greens, salad blends and salad kits are food items being investigated.

It is uncertain whether there is a link between the federal and provincial investigations at this time. The investigations are ongoing.

For detailed information on clinical and food testing with regard to outbreaks of *Listeria* please check the [Public Health Ontario website Labstract](#).

If you have any questions, please call Simon Lee, Public Health Inspector at 705-743-1000, ext. 249.