

Listeriosis is a serious infection usually caused by eating food contaminated with the bacterium *Listeria monocytogenes*. An estimated 1,600 people get listeriosis each year, and about 260 die. The infection is most likely to sicken pregnant women and their newborns, adults aged 65 or older, and people with weakened immune systems. Deli meats such as lunch meats, cold cuts, hot dogs etc and cheeses are known to be the source of the Listeria outbreak. The people that are at the most risk when it comes to listeria are pregnant women, people 65 or older, or people who have weakened immune systems.

If you are a pregnant woman, listeriosis could either cause you to lose your baby, premature birth, or a life threatening infection to your new born baby. Listeria can grow on foods kept in a refrigerator but can easily kill when you heat the food to the right temperature. If you are going to eat deli meats you have to make sure that the meat is reheated to an internal temperature of 165 degrees F or until the meat is steaming hot. Listeria can also be obtained by people who have eaten raw vegetables that have been contaminated by soil.

Listeria is an epidemic that has spread through many different states in America. Listeria cases have been reported in New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maryland, Illinois, and California. The actual number of cases is probably higher than the number reported. Samples were collected from sick people from April 17, 2021, to September 29, 2022. The first victim of the Listeria outbreak happened on 4/1/21. After that 15 more people would end up getting sick after that. The outbreak ended on 9/29/22.

The spread of disease in today's industrial/global world differs from the networks which spread in the early Agrarian world because Infectious diseases commonly spread through the direct transfer of bacteria, viruses or other germs from one person to another and for the most part when a disease is spread it is by accident. In the early Agrarian world networks were spread intentionally. The spread of disease in the early Agrarian world was sometimes caused by domestic animals and wild primates. Even now we have diseases that were spread from animals to humans such as rabies, salmonellosis, plague, etc.

Sources:

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