

Serial number 2025/011

Date 14 March 2025

Event: National outbreak of *Listeria monocytogenes* serotype 1/2a CC7 t10/173

Notified by: Gastrointestinal Infections, Food Safety and One Health Division (GIFSOH)

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Microbiology: GBRU@ukhsa.gov.uk

IRP Level: National – Standard Incident

Incident Leads: Vanessa Wong, Gauri Godbole

Instructions for Cascade

- UKHSA Private Office Groups who cascade within Groups
- UKHSA Health Protection in Regions Directorate, including UKHSA Field Services and UKHSA Health Protection Teams including UKHSA Regional Deputy Directors
- Regional Deputy Directors UKHSA to cascade to Directors of Public Health
- Directors of Public Health to cascade to Directors of Adult Social Care and Adult Social Care teams
- UKHSA Lab Management Teams
- UKHSA Regional Communications
- Generic inbox for each of the devolved administrations
- DHSC CMO (excluding internal UKHSA briefing notes)
- National NHS EPRR
- Devolved Administrations public health agencies to cascade to Medical Directors and other DA teams as appropriate to their local arrangements
- UKHSA microbiologists to cascade to non-UKHSA labs (NHS labs and private)
- UKHSA microbiologists to cascade to NHS Trust infection leads
- NHS laboratories /NHS infection leads/NHS microbiologist/NHS infectious disease specialists to cascade to appropriate clinical groups, such as Infection, prevention and control, Emergency and Acute medicine, Obstetrics, Haematology-oncology, Hepatology and Renal Teams

Summary:

UKHSA and partner agencies are investigating an outbreak of *Listeria monocytogenes* serotype 1/2a Clonal Complex (CC)7, 10-single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) designation 1.1.34.34.173.%. This Briefing Note is to inform health and social care professionals about this national investigation into a CC7 t10.173 cluster and its association with Cool Delight Desserts supplied to the NHS. **We recommend health and care facilities do not serve desserts from Cool Delight while investigations are ongoing.**

Background and Interpretation:

UKHSA Briefing Note: 2025/011

Issued: 14/03/2025



UK Health Security Agency

UKHSA together with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) are investigating a cluster of five cases of *Listeria monocytogenes* (LM) belonging to serotype 1/2a CC7 (SNP address: 1.1.34.34.173.%), on whole genome sequencing. The cases were identified from May to December 2024 across three regions of England (North West n=1; Yorkshire and Humber n=2; West Midlands n=1) and Wales (n=1). Median age of cases is 87 years (range 68-89). All cases have underlying/ immunocompromising health conditions and were hospitalised. Some of the cases had a hospital stay in the time leading up to their infection. Three cases have died, including one where LM was reported as the cause of death.

LM has been detected in two food isolates which match the clinical isolates: a chocolate and vanilla mousse and a strawberry and vanilla mousse both sampled in February 2025 at an NHS hospital in the South West, as part of routine surveillance.

Both mousses were supplied by Cool Delight Desserts, who are working cooperatively with the Local Authorities and the FSA in response to the investigations. Although, the levels of LM in the mousses were low and below the regulatory thresholds for Ready to Eat Foods, given the potential risk of listeriosis in the severely immunocompromised patients in health and care settings, **we would recommend these facilities do not serve the desserts from Cool Delight until further advice**. These include NHS Trusts, independent sector healthcare providers, care homes, and other settings where immunocompromised people are cared for. The products have a 2-year shelf life and it is recommended these are quarantined and not served until further information is available from the FSA investigation.

This is a coordinated national level response led by UKHSA, involving several organisations, including Food Standards Agencies of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, Public Health Teams in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and Local Authorities.

Implications & Recommendations for UKHSA Regions

UKHSA Regions are asked to follow up listeriosis as per current guidance and may be asked to undertake additional investigations.

Please direct any enquiries regarding this incident to the Listeria team (Listeria@ukhsa.gov.uk).

Individuals who may have consumed Cool Delight Desserts products in healthcare settings, including retail outlets, and report being unwell should seek advice from their local healthcare services.

UKHSA regions are asked to share this briefing note as appropriate to their Local Authority Environmental Health Teams and Local Authority Public Health Teams.

If a member of the public reports being unwell they should seek advice through NHS111

Implications & Recommendations for UKHSA sites and services

Diagnostic laboratories should continue to urgently refer all isolates of *Listeria monocytogenes* to the Gastrointestinal Bacteria Reference Unit (GBRU) at Colindale using L4 referral form for typing.

NHS Trusts and their testing laboratories are also requested to share any food and environmental isolates of *Listeria* they may found during their local environmental surveillance with the GBRU (using L7 referral form) <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/gbru-reference-and-diagnostic-services>

Food Water & Environment laboratories may be asked to examine food and environmental

samples taken as part of local authority outbreak investigations.

Implications & Recommendations for Health and Care Facilities and Diagnostic Laboratories

To stop serving Cool Delight Desserts at NHS Trusts, Independent Sector Healthcare Providers, Social Care Providers (e.g. care homes), and any settings where care is provided to immunocompromised individuals, whilst the outbreak investigation is ongoing. The products can be quarantined until the investigation has concluded.

To inform suppliers of Cool Delight Desserts to pause delivery of their products to avoid food storage problems at the healthcare facilities.

Communications will also be circulated by NHS England to advise that the implicated products are not served.

NHS Food Safety Leads to inform their Local Authority Environmental Health Team of any listeria detections in food products served to NHS patients. The NHS can opt to notify the FSA directly in the event of food safety concerns, using the '[Report a food or feed safety incident](#),' report form.

Diagnostic laboratories should continue to refer all isolates of *Listeria monocytogenes* to the Gastrointestinal Bacteria Reference Unit at Colindale for typing as soon as possible.

Microbiologists should share this notification with the relevant medical specialties, including Emergency Medicine, General Medicine, Elderly Care Medicine, Haematology-Oncology, Hepatology, Renal Medicine, Neonatal Medicine, Paediatrics, and Obstetrics.

Implications and recommendations for Local Authorities

Local authorities / Environmental Health Teams may be asked to contact cases linked to this incident, should they occur in their area. Local authorities may also be asked to contact businesses to trace products if those businesses are located in their area.

Local Authorities should inform FSA of relevant findings in accordance with definitions outlined in the Food Law Code of Practice.
