



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

October 19, 2017

Dear Superintendent Gullat:

Thank you for reaching out to the Louisiana Office of Public Health regarding your concerns with individuals in your community who are experiencing a food-borne illness. Preliminary testing conducted through the Louisiana Office of Public Health is showing that this food-borne illness is caused by *Salmonella*.

Salmonella is a type of bacteria that is not efficiently transmitted from person-to-person. Individuals usually become ill with this bacteria by ingesting food that has been contaminated and not properly cooked, or by handling and touching animals that are known to carry this bacteria. The risk of disease transmission from person-to-person through usual contact in the school setting or at the work place is extremely low. Thus, the Office of Public Health does not recommend closure of schools in response to this outbreak.

Should you have any further questions, my office will be more than happy to assist. For anyone concerned about having symptoms of *Salmonella*, they can call the Office of Public Health 24/7 Infectious Disease Epidemiology hotline at 800-256-2748 for further guidance.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Parham Jaber", followed by the letters "MD".

Parham Jaber, MD, MPH
Assistant Secretary, Office of Public Health
Louisiana Department of Health
628 N. 4th Street, Suite 364
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Cell: 225-603-4402
Parham.Jaber@la.gov