

AHCA/NCAL Clinical Scenario Teaching Tool – Food Safety

Clinical Scenario

It's summer and everyone in the small, rural farming town in the Midwest state of WI, are enjoying a town celebration over the 4th of July weekend. There is a small SNF in the community that is home to 50 residents from the surrounding area. The town picnic has always been one of their favorite activities, with 35 of the residents able to attend with 10 staff members or their family. The menu included fruit and veggie platters, salads and desserts, all brought by the women that lived in the town. The meats were burger patties, as well as chicken and turkey burgers for those that did not want the beef. All in attendance had a wonderful time.

The next day, one of the residents that had attended started having stomach cramps and diarrhea. Three more felt nauseous and unable to eat. Over the next five days, 20 more became ill, one with bloody diarrhea and uncontrolled vomiting who was eventually hospitalized for hydration. Staff members that had attended did not become violently ill, but 5 of them became ill enough that they missed 3 days of work.

The public health department for the county began an investigation after the facility contacted them when the second resident became ill and the staff were worried. Stool samples were obtained from the residents and 1 staff member. It was noted that the common food eaten by all that were ill was the chicken patty. Thus, the public health department had to do a sweep of the town, as well as find the maker of the chicken patties to notify them of the illness.

What is the likely diagnosis for these residents, staff and community members?

Questions

- 1. What is the likely diagnosis for this illness?**
 - a. Staphylococcus aureus
 - b. Clostridium botulinum
 - c. Salmonella
 - d. Escherichia coli (E. coli)
- 2. If two cases were identified, a resident and staff member. The department of public health**
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. **What groups of people are at a high risk for developing food poisoning?**
 - a. Aged 65 or older
 - b. Younger than 5
 - c. Those with weakened immune systems
 - d. Women who are pregnant
 - e. A, B, C
 - f. None of the above, all people are at risk
 - g. All of the above

4. **If someone no longer has physical symptoms such as diarrhea, they are no longer capable of spreading salmonella to others.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

Additional Resources

1. CDC. 2024. Food Safety - Information for Healthcare Professionals. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/food-safety/hcp/information/index.html>
2. CDC. 2025. Food Safety – People at Increased Risk for Food Poisoning. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/food-safety/risk-factors/index.html>
3. CDC. 2025. Food Safety – Symptoms of Food Poisoning. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/food-safety/signs-symptoms/index.html>
4. Cleveland Clinic. 2022. Salmonella. Retrieved from <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/15697-salmonella>
5. Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA). 2017. 2017 Infectious Diseases Society of America Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Infectious Diarrhea. Retrieved from <https://www.idsociety.org/practice-guideline/infectious-diarrhea/>
6. Mayo Clinic. 2025. Salmonella Infection. Retrieved from <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/salmonella/symptoms-causes/syc-20355329>
7. NACCHO Local Health Department Directory <https://www.naccho.org/membership/lhd-directory>