

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

January 13th, 2016

Dear Martin County Medical Providers,

The Florida Department of Health in Martin County, Division of Epidemiology has noticed an increase in the number of Salmonella cases among children in Martin County.

Salmonella cases by the numbers:

- **63 %** of the reported cases are among children (0-4 yrs. of age); this represents a 10% increase from last year.
- **Infants** (less than 1 yr.) account for **37%** of the cases
- **Children** (1-4 yrs. old) account for **26%** of the cases

Interesting findings:

Finding has shown that the majority of the cases fit the following criteria:

- Age group: 0-12M
- Did not attend daycare at the time of infection
- Did not have symptomatic parents or relatives at the time of illness
- Were on breast milk or different brands of dry formula
- Are patients of local physicians and consistently comply with their scheduled visits
- Were hospitalized due to this illness
- Were exposed to at least one common risk factor

Some of the common exposure factors that we have identified include:

- Not washing hand after changing diapers and/or after cooking
- Cross contamination: Not properly washing counter tops, or hands after handling raw foods
- Feeding children from parents hands instead of using clean utensils

Please help us decrease the number of Salmonella cases in Martin County by reviewing the Modes of Transmission and Prevention Measures of all enteric diseases with your patients and parents and encouraging them to practice these measures daily. **Salmonella - Fact Sheet** and other prevention materials included for easy distribution.

Sincerely,

Grithel Clark, MPH

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