



Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency



UKHSA - Urgent public health message – outbreak of food botulism in France involving a number of British nationals

This is an urgent public health message to all front-line clinicians regarding an outbreak of food botulism involving a number of British nationals. The outbreak has been linked to consumption of home-prepared sardines served by a restaurant in Bordeaux, France called the Tchin Tchin Wine Bar, between 4 and 10 September 2023.

Symptoms of foodborne botulism include vomiting and diarrhoea, followed by constipation which might precede neurological symptoms.

Please see the following link which contains further information including symptoms, testing and referral: [Food botulism: outbreak in France involving British nationals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/food-botulism-outbreak-in-france-involving-british-nationals)

NHS Trusts, please bring this to the attention of your Emergency Departments, neurologists and medical teams in particular.

This safety message has been issued to the following CAS lists:

- NHS Trusts
- ICBs / CCGs
- Out of hours GP services
- GP Practices
- Community Pharmacies
- Primary Care Networks
- Social Care Providers (registered with CAS)
- Territorial CMOs NI, Scotland and Wales
- Directors of Public Health/Regional DsPH
- NHS Regional Offices
- Independent healthcare providers (registered with CAS)
- Out of hours contact addresses (across all providers) that are registered with CAS

NHS Regions we would be grateful if you could cascade this message to community pharmacy contractors in your regions.

Thank you,
Central Alerting System team, MHRA