



**Briefing Note Template (updated January 2025)**

**Serial number:** 2025/013

**Date:** 25/03/2025

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**Event:** National outbreak of *Salmonella* Saintpaul (t5.945) in England

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**Notified by:** Gastrointestinal Infections, Food Safety and One Health Division (GIFSOH), UK Health Security Agency

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**Authorised by:**

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**Contact:**

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**IRP Level:** Routine

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**Incident Lead:** Hannah Charles

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**Instructions for Cascade**

This briefing note is intended to be cascading to the following stakeholders:

- UKHSA Private Office Groups who cascade onwards within Groups
- UKHSA Health Protection in Regions Directorate:
  - UKHSA Field Services
  - UKHSA Health Protection Teams including UKHSA Regional Deputy Directors
- UKHSA Lab Management Teams
- UKHSA Regional Communications
- Generic inbox for each of the Devolved Administrations
- Inboxes for each of the Crown Dependencies
- DHSC CMO (*excluding internal UKHSA briefing notes*)
- OHID Regional Directors of Public Health
- National NHSE EPRR
- NHSE National Operations Centre
  
- **Devolved Administrations** to cascade to Medical Directors and other DA teams as appropriate to their local arrangements
- **Regional Deputy Directors** to cascade to Directors of Public Health and Local Authority Environmental Health teams
- **UKHSA microbiologists** to cascade to non-UKHSA labs (NHS labs and private)
- **UKHSA microbiologists** to cascade to NHS Trust infection leads

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**Summary:**

The Gastrointestinal Infections, Food Safety and One Health Division (GIFSOH) have detected a nationally distributed cluster of *Salmonella* Saintpaul. As of 19 March 2025, a total of 25 confirmed cases of *Salmonella* Saintpaul t5.945 have been reported, resident in England (n=19), Northern Ireland (n=2), Wales (n=2), Scotland (n=1) and Crown Dependencies (n=1). All confirmed cases were linked through routine surveillance as genetically related through Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) at the 5-SNP single linkage clustering level (5-SNP address designation: 1.416.480.571.608.945.%).

Sample dates are available for 24 of the 25 cases, ranging from 20 February 2025 to 04 March 2025. Cases range in age from 0 to 88 years, with a median age of 5 years. The age group most affected are those aged 0-5, (n=13, 52%). 64% (n=16) of cases are female and 36% (n=9) are male.

Cases resident in England are resident in the following regions: North West (n=6), West Midlands (n=4), South West (n=3), East of England (n=2), in East Midlands (n=1), North East (n=1), London (n=1), South East (n=1).

Based on available data, five were hospitalised and seven reported blood in stool. No cases in this cluster have reported travel outside the UK.

This strain of *Salmonella* Saintpaul does not have any genotypic markers of antimicrobial resistance.

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**Background and Interpretation:**

*Salmonella* Saintpaul is an uncommon serovar in the UK, and has previously been associated with an outbreak in 2023 linked to imported melons, although there is no evidence so far that this is the source of this outbreak. Given this, the high proportion of children in this cluster and the high clinical severity in some cases, further investigations are planned to understand the cause of this outbreak.

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**Implications & Recommendations for UKHSA Regions:**

UKHSA's Rapid Investigation Team (RIT) are currently completing questionnaires for cases and noting this in the relevant CIMS record.

HPTs are asked to share this briefing note with Directors of Public Health and Environmental Health Teams.

Further information on *Salmonella* can be found on the NHS website ([Diarrhoea and vomiting - NHS](#)) and UKHSA website ([Salmonella: guidance, data and analysis - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#))

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**Implications & Recommendations for UKHSA sites and services:**

UKHSA sites and services should continue to report *Salmonella* results (including all serovars and subspecies) for national surveillance following normal procedures and should promptly refer samples to the Gastrointestinal Bacteria Reference Unit (GBRU) for confirmation and further characterisation (through WGS) as detailed below.

Food Water & Environment (FW&E) laboratories may be asked to examine food and environmental samples taken as part of the outbreak investigations.

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**Implications & Recommendations for NHS:**

Clinical laboratories should continue to promptly refer all isolates of *Salmonella* spp. to the Gastrointestinal Bacteria Reference Unit at Colindale for typing and confirmation.

Any enquiries regarding laboratory testing can be directed to [GBRU@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:GBRU@ukhsa.gov.uk)

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**Implications and recommendations for Local Authorities:**

Local authority environmental health teams may also be asked to contact businesses to trace products if those businesses are in their area, or potentially undertake sampling in conjunction with UKHSA's FW&E official food samplers if a suspected vehicle is identified.