



Messenger

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Trichinellosis outbreak associated with consumption of raw boar meat

Upcoming training from CDC expert

Trichinellosis Outbreak in California

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported in MMWR on March 2, 2018 an outbreak of Trichinellosis in California. On January 15, 2017, a hospital physician notified the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) of a patient with a suspected diagnosis of Trichinellosis (also called Trichinosis), a roundworm disease transmitted by the consumption of raw or undercooked meat containing *Trichinella spp.* larvae. A family member of the patient reported that at least three other friends and family members had been evaluated at area hospitals for fever, myalgia, abdominal pain, diarrhea, and vomiting.

The patients had attended a celebration the previous month at which several pork dishes were served, including larb, a traditional Laotian raw pork dish. This led the hospital physician to suspect a diagnosis of Trichinellosis.

The event hosts reported that the meat had come from a domesticated wild boar raised and slaughtered on their private family farm in northern California. The ACPHD investigation revealed 36 persons exposed, of which 10 confirmed and two probable cases of trichinellosis were identified (11 males, one female). Onset dates ranged from the day of the event to January 23, 2017. Nine patients were hospitalized, two of whom were admitted to the intensive care unit; nine had sepsis, seven had acute kidney injury, and two had gastrointestinal bleeding.

Historically, most cases of Trichinellosis were associated with the consumption of raw or undercooked *Trichinella*-infected pork, with approximately 360 cases reported to CDC per year during 1947–1956 but less than 15 cases per year during 2006–2015. While Trichinellosis is rare in the United States, it remains a public health threat, especially among populations that consume raw or undercooked wild game meat or pork from noncommercial sources.

Recent outbreaks of Trichinellosis have been associated with wild boar, bear, walrus, and unspecified pork. The outbreak described in this report was linked to consumption of a privately raised boar. Yet surveillance data during 2008–2012 identified just one case of Trichinellosis linked to the consumption of home-raised swine, suggesting that this might be an under-recognized risk factor for Trichinellosis.

Home-raised and home-slaughtered swine produced for personal consumption typically are not subject to the same safety and inspection standards as commercially produced swine, and might be outside the purview of inspections

by the state agriculture department or animal health board. Home-raised swine with access to the outdoors are also at risk for acquiring other zoonotic parasites, including toxoplasmosis and *Ascaris suum* (large roundworm of pigs).

Educating persons who raise swine for personal consumption about these safety concerns, such as through information campaigns by public health or agriculture authorities, might mitigate the risks.

Packaging and Shipping Training

- When: Saturday, April 14, 2018
- Where: Hardy Diagnostics in Santa Maria
- Cost: Free of charge for attendees

Several spaces are still available for this high-quality practical training.

Nationally-recognized CDC expert Pat Payne will present a packaging and shipping workshop on Saturday, April 14 in Santa Maria. This one-day program provides a comprehensive overview of regulations applicable to packaging and shipping human and animal specimens for lab testing.

FAA regulations require that individuals who perform packaging and shipping receive training every three years. The FAA is known to perform unannounced site inspections of laboratories and requesting shipping and training records for all staff assigned these duties.

For information, contact Kyllie Bouget at 805-781-5507 or kbouget@co.slo.ca.us. You can register for the course at www.aphl.org/007-18.

The workshop is free of charge to attendees, and lunch will be provided.

Register Today!

