

# Health Officer Report

## 7/7/22

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Fargo Cass Public Health

# Listeria Outbreak from Ice Cream

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- Big Olaf Creamery brand, sold only in Florida

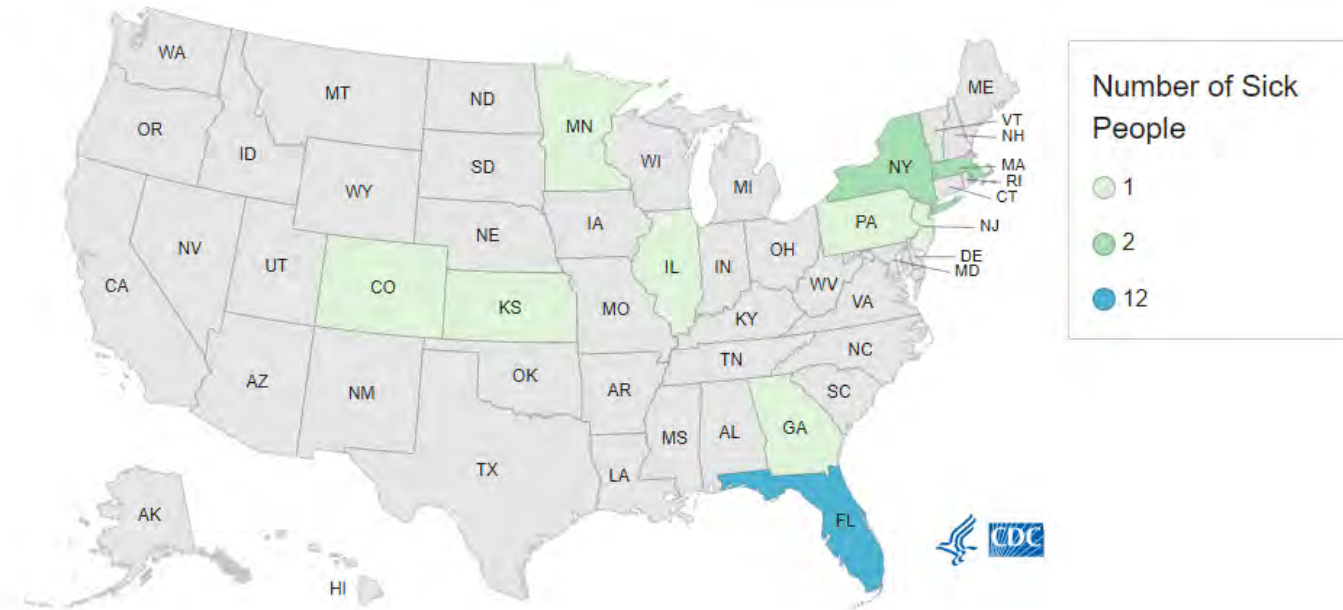


## Fast Facts

- Illnesses: 23
- Hospitalizations: 22
- Deaths: 1
- [States](#): 10
- Recall: No
- Investigation status: Active

This map shows where people in this *Listeria* outbreak lived. Among 10 people with information who did not live in Florida, 8 traveled to Florida in the month before getting sick.

This outbreak may not be limited to the states listed below. This is because some people recover without medical care and are not tested for *Listeria*.



# Listeria Outbreak – case in MN

# About Listeria

**Who has a higher risk of getting *Listeria* food poisoning?**

**Lessons from *Listeria* outbreaks:** Food poisoning can happen to anyone. Each year, about 48 million people in the US (1 in 6) get sick from eating contaminated food. It can be especially dangerous for pregnant women and their newborns, older adults, and people with immune systems weakened by cancer, cancer treatments, or other serious conditions (like diabetes, kidney failure, liver disease, and HIV/AIDS). *Listeria* is a prime example of how germs that contaminate food can cause sickness and death in these groups.

**Pregnant women, fetuses, and newborn infants**

Listeria can pass from pregnant women to their fetuses and newborns. It can cause miscarriages, stillbirths, and newborn deaths.

**Chancy cheese**  
**LISTERIA OUTBREAK:** Quark cheese (a type of soft cheese) sickened 142 people, sired 10 newborns and 18 adults, and caused 20 miscarriages.

**People with weakened immune systems**

Listeria can spread through the bloodstream to cause meningitis, and often kills. The weaker your immune system, the greater the risk.

**Contaminated celery**  
**LISTERIA OUTBREAK:** The cut celery in plastic wrap sickened 47 people, including 10 people who had other serious health problems. Two of them died as a result.

**Adults 65 or older**

Listeria can spread through the bloodstream to cause meningitis, and often kills. The older you are, the greater the risk.

**Tainted cantaloupes**  
**LISTERIA OUTBREAK:** Contaminated whole cantaloupes sickened 147 people in 28 states and caused one of the deadliest *Epidemiologic* outbreaks in the US. There were 33 deaths, mostly in adults over 65, reported during the outbreak.

**What foods are risky?**

When it comes to *Listeria*, some foods are more risky than others. Meet some of the other foods where *Listeria* is known to hide.

- Raw Sprouts
- Raw Milk (unpasteurized)
- Soft Cheeses
- Deli Meats and Hot Dogs (cold, not heated)
- Smoked Seafood

- Can cause severe illness (listeriosis) when bacteria spreads throughout the body
- Adults > 65, pregnant women, and immunosuppressed at higher risk for severe disease
  - Listeria during pregnancy can result in miscarriage, stillbirth, premature delivery, life-threatening infection in newborn
- Symptoms often similar to food poisoning (fever, diarrhea) but may include headache, stiff neck, loss of balance, confusion, fever, myalgias – typically start within 2 weeks

# Abortion in the US

On June 24, US Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, landmark 1973 decision that affirmed constitutional right to abortion

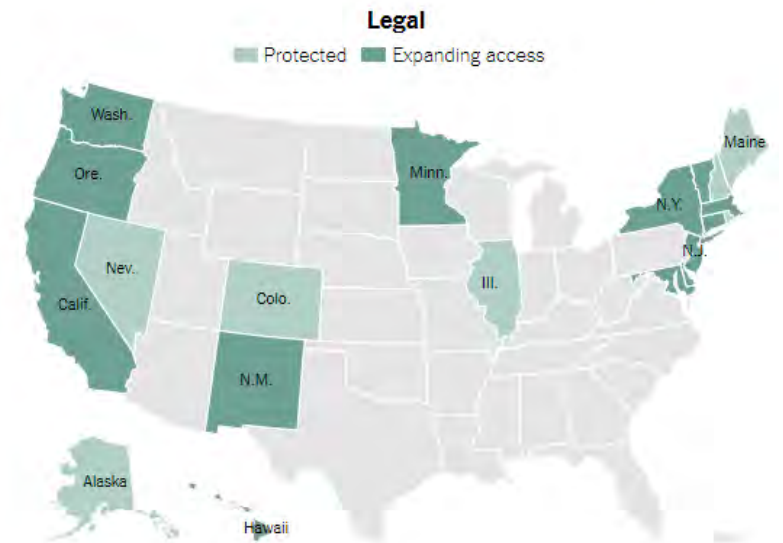
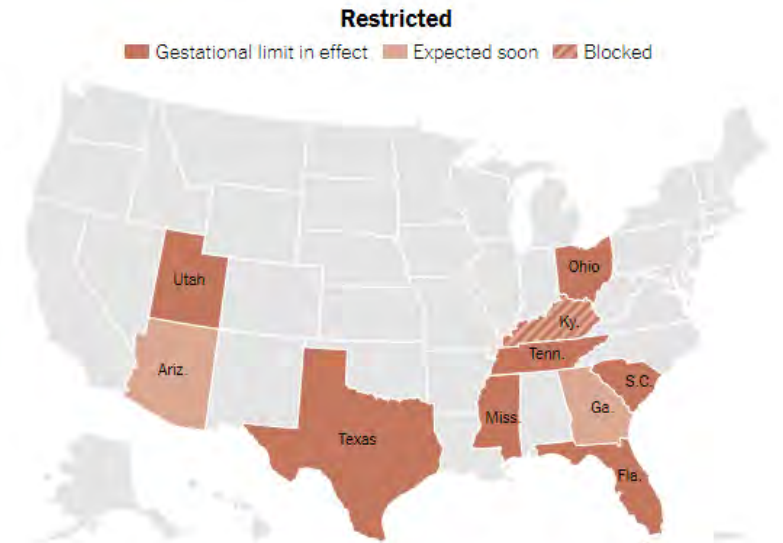
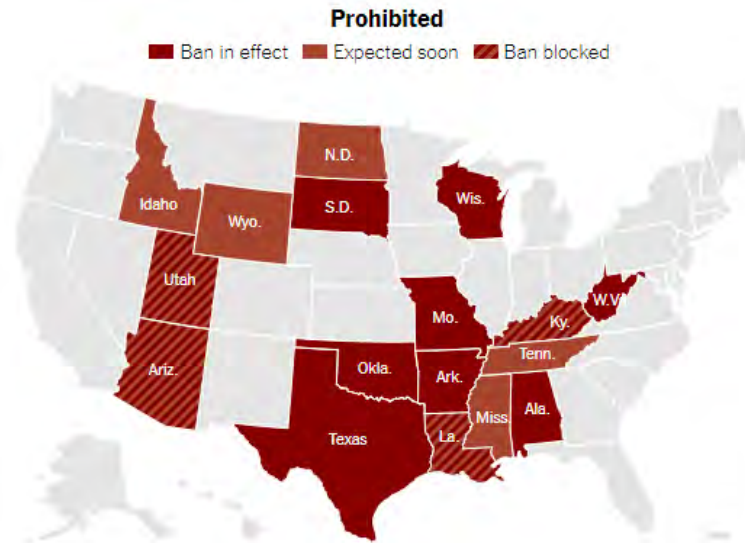
Now each state will determine legality

As of July 5, 8 states have banned abortion

More bans expected in coming weeks; multiple lawsuits in various states seeking to block enforcement of laws restricting the procedure



# Current Legal Status of Abortion





# Abortion in ND

- Abortion will be banned starting July 28
- Exceptions for rape, incest, to save life of mother
- Class C felony (up to 5 years in prison & \$10,000 fine) for anyone performing the procedure
  
- Latest data from NDDOH: in 2020, 1171 abortions performed in ND (833 ND residents; 338 women from other states)

# Senate Passes Gun Reform Bill



- Comprehensive gun bill designed to prevent gun violence
- Bipartisan and includes millions of dollars for mental health, school safety, crisis intervention programs and incentives for states to include juvenile records in National Instant Criminal Background Check System
- Highlights:
  - Enhanced background checks for buyers ages 18 – 21
  - Funding to incentivize implementation of state red flag laws
  - Improved background checks clarifying who registers as federal firearms dealer
  - Reauthorizes HRSA Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program
  - Greater integration and resources for mental health in schools



# FCPH in the News



Radio campaign to increase awareness around importance of immunizations



60 second spots will run July 4 – Aug 18 on BOB 95, BIG 98.7, Eagle 106.9, 107.9 the Fox, Q105.1, Bison 1660, The City 94.5, 96.9 HITS FM



Suzie Ouradnik, Public Health Immunization Coordinator, Mikaela Mund, Public Health Nurse, and myself recorded! listen here:



## FCPH in the News

- Billboards for tobacco prevention with Pride-specific messages will display downtown during Pride month

**LGBTQIA+**  
young adults are twice  
as likely to use nicotine.

**SpotTheSigns.net**



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# Other Fun Public Health News

- Elmo got the COVID-19 vaccine: <https://youtu.be/CbFdm2xRYv8>
- A **toolkit** created by US Department of Health and Human Services and AAP with informational content, posters, flyers, social media graphics, videos, etc (intended for providers, but useful for public health!)



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# Resources

- <https://www.cdc.gov/listeria/outbreaks/monocytogenes-06-22/index.html>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/us/abortion-laws-roe-v-wade.html>
- <https://www.guttmacher.org/abortion-rights-supreme-court>