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For Immediate Release
May 26, 2010

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MORE SALMONELLA CASES FOUND IN CHICO

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. — Butte County Public Health Department has discovered additional Salmonella cases in an ongoing investigation which was prompted by numerous case reports of the food borne illness.

“More cases have been identified, and all of the cases are in Chico,” stated Mark Lundberg, M.D., Health Officer at Butte County Public Health. “Public Health staff are conducting interviews to determine the source of the outbreak, and to prevent ongoing transmission.” Since May 14 there have been seven confirmed cases of Salmonella reported to Butte County Public Health. Three of these cases have been hospitalized. The average age of the seven cases is 29 years. In a typical year there are 32 cases of Salmonella reported in all of Butte County.

Salmonella, the name of a group of bacteria, is the most common cause of foodborne illness, (also known as “food poisoning”) in the United States. Symptoms include diarrhea, fever, abdominal cramps, and vomiting. Usually, symptoms last 4-7 days and most people get better without treatment. But, salmonella can be more serious in older adults, infants, and persons with chronic illnesses.

Salmonella occurs in raw poultry, eggs, beef, and sometimes on unwashed fruit and vegetables. People can become sick with Salmonella if they eat raw or undercooked eggs, poultry, or meat, or contaminated fruits and vegetables. Salmonella can also be spread when someone who has been sick with the disease does not wash hands after using the restroom, and then prepares food for someone else.

At this point in time the cause of the outbreak has not been determined. Public Health staff are interviewing people to collect data on food and other exposures. Laboratory analysis of stool samples will determine if all cases were caused by the same type of Salmonella.

Anyone suffering from symptoms of foodborne illness should stay home from work, and get plenty of rest. To prevent dehydration, drink plenty of fluids. Practice diligent hand washing techniques and seek medical care if symptoms are moderate to severe.

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For more information on foodborne illnesses visit the Butte County Public Health website:
<http://www.buttecounty.net/publichealth/cder/foodborne.html>.

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Butte County Public Health Department

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community and environmental health.