

# SALMONELLA ENTERITIDIS

## SPECIES AFFECTED

All species, often poultry

## DESCRIPTION

*Salmonella enteritidis* (SE) is one of the most common serotypes of Salmonella bacteria reported worldwide. During in the 1980s, SE emerged as an important cause of human illness in the United States. The number of outbreaks of SE rose dramatically during that time, beginning in the northeastern states and then spreading west during the 1990s. SE illness now occurs in most regions of the country.

SE infection is present in hens in most areas in the United States. An estimated one in 20,000 eggs is internally contaminated. Only a small number of hens might be infected at any given time, and an infected hen can lay many normal eggs while only occasionally laying eggs contaminated with SE. Broiler chickens can also be contaminated with SE. Eggs have been the most common food source linked to SE infections. SE can be inside perfectly normal-appearing eggs. If eggs contaminated with SE are eaten raw or lightly cooked (runny egg whites or yolks), the bacterium can cause illness.

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

*Salmonella enteritidis* is a mandatory reportable disease in Oregon.