

FOI 07.19.28 – Question 1 Appendix 1

Email Correspondence received from the HCA (Hospital Caterers Association)

Sent: 10 June 2019 08:45

Subject: HCA - Latest Press Release

To all HCA members

In case you haven't seen Twitter or our website, Our latest full statement is below regarding the listeria outbreak:

Hospital Caterers Association statement on listeria outbreak – updated 8th June 2019

The Hospital Caterers Association (www.hospitalcaterers.org) is deeply saddened by the recent news of a listeria outbreak in a few NHS hospitals. The safety and wellbeing of our patients is our absolute priority and our sympathies are with the families of those patients who have been affected.

On Friday 7th June 2019, Public Health England (PHE), confirmed North Country Cooked Meats had produced a positive test result for the outbreak strain of listeria. As a result, North Country Cooked Meats, North Country Quality Foods who they distribute through, and The Good Food Chain, who made the sandwiches supplied to those patients, have all voluntarily ceased production.

We understand other suppliers who have purchased products from North Country Cooked Meats have also been affected and recalls are underway.

We are reaching out to our membership, caterers and suppliers alike, to provide the support they may need, and we are working with all relevant authorities and agencies such as PHE and the Food Standards Agency.

We urgently request hospital caterers to identify all products in their menus which contain ingredients from North Country Cooked Meats and North Country Quality Foods so they can be isolated, removed and further investigations can be undertaken.

We would like to reinforce the critical importance of temperature control and call for all caterers to review their audit processes with immediate effect.

We demand the highest standards from our supplier members and expect them, without exception, to temporarily suspend delivery of products until they have been fully re-evaluated and identified as 'not at risk' from the positive test for listeria at North Country Cooked Meats. We expect suppliers to keep our caterers informed and support our caterer members in isolating and removing from the supply chain any potential at-risk product.

Our patients are our number one priority and this is an unnecessary tragedy. Our patients are some of the most vulnerable people in society and we must all go the extra mile to protect them. Failure in food safety systems are unacceptable and immediate action must be taken. It is a patient's choice to have a sandwich for dinner, and it is all of our responsibility to ensure it is a safe choice.

We continue to monitor this developing situation and will update membership as new information is available.

More information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/listeria-cases-being-investigated>

14 June 2019

Dear Council member,

Our National Chair, Craig, is recovering from surgery, and Brian, as National Vice-chair, would like to update you on the current status of the Listeriosis outbreak.

It has been brought to our attention that there may well be a breaking story in the Daily Mail Saturday 15/06/18. Our information is, it is sensationalist journalism and our position as HCA is not to engage but default to our original statement (currently on the HCA website).

We would advise that should any Council member be approached for comment prior or after release of this story from any member of press that you do not engage but defer to your NHS Trust media/press dept. You may well wish to share this with your branch membership.

Colleagues, tragic circumstances such as this impacts on many and our Association is giving considered response. Please be assured that this situation is being monitored closely with daily support from our PR partners at Open Door.

19 June 2019

Hi all – following the announcement by Matt Hancock, Health Minister, contact has been made with his office and we have an updated Press Release at <http://www.hospitalcaterers.org/news-events/news/l-listeria-outbreak-statement-updated-18th-june-2019/>

20 June 2019

Dear All

Just thought I'd share with you that we've had notification from our Sandwich supplier (Tiffin's) today that they've made the decision to cease the supply of all products to hospitals from 1st September.

See attached letter.



Tiffin Sandwiches
Statement for Wotton

20 June 2019

Dear all

As you may be aware, we have had 2 listeria outbreaks in Northern Ireland, both as a result of pre-packaged sandwiches. Consequently, our FSMS's are very listeria focussed, and we have learned a lot along the way. We are a long way from perfect (we only buy our products from contracts with STS approval, and we currently don't have a contract for patient sandwiches - I'm aware this is not

where you want to be - it's not really where we want to be either), but in the interest of shared learning, any of the Northern Ireland branch members would be happy to share our journeys/HACCP's etc. with other members.

19 June 2019

Please find attached updated guidance relating to listeria which has been prepared by PHE - North East Protection Team.



Listeria - advice for patients June 2019.r