



North Central District Health Department Henry ~ Shelby ~ Spencer ~ Trimble Counties

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NEWS RELEASE

North Central District Health Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Department investigates foodborne outbreak at local restaurant

Updated Press Release

Shelbyville, Ky. – North Central District Health Department is continuing to investigate the foodborne outbreak that occurred on Easter Sunday in a local restaurant in Shelbyville, KY.

Confirmatory tests done by the Kentucky State Lab have positively identified significant growth of *Staphylococcus Aureus* in one of the food samples obtained from Claudia Sanders Restaurant. The city ham was definitively identified with the same strain of *Staphylococcus Aureus* as identified in some of the clinical samples. The USDA has taken two of the packaged hams to their lab and is currently conducting tests to determine if this incident could possibly be a more wide spread occurrence.

During this investigation, the environmental staff of the North Central District Health Department has offered continued support to our area establishments especially Claudia Sanders restaurant where we conducted on-site trainings for food safety, hygiene, proper temperature control and emphasized the importance of hand washing. We also physically monitored Claudia Sanders restaurant throughout this investigation answering questions from the staff as well as the public.

It is important to note, this type of outbreak could occur at any point and time at any establishment throughout the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control, (CDC) an estimated 76 million persons a year experience foodborne illnesses in the United States. Foodborne illness often presents itself as flu-like symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or fever and can progress to more severe illness resulting in multiple days of sickness and even hospitalization.

The North Central District Health Department would like to acknowledge the employees and management staff of Claudia Sanders Restaurant for their cooperation during this investigation; we would also like to express our gratitude to the Kentucky State Lab and the

Food Safety Branch for their assistance during this outbreak and commend the North Central District Health Department staff for their immediate response and thorough investigation using in place protocols and loyal dedication.

The health department will continue to monitor the situation and issue further releases as more information becomes available.

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