

Protocol for *Salmonella* Poona Outbreak – March 2002

The following protocol covers:

- Study population for cases and controls
- Inclusion and exclusion criteria for cases and controls
- Methods for control selection
- Methods for control recruitment

Cases

- Include all laboratory-confirmed cases of *Salmonella* Poona, Group G *Salmonella* with onset from March 15 through May 3, 2002. Also include cases who are clearly epidemiologically-linked to a laboratory-confirmed case.
- Re-interview all cases with this questionnaire.

Controls

- Controls should be residents of the state/province (and ideally of the county) of their matching control. Find 2 controls for each case.
- Match controls to cases by broad age category:
 - Age categories: <2 years, 2-17 years, 18-64 years, 65+ years
- Exclude any controls with:
 - History of diarrhea (if asked to define diarrhea: ≥ 3 loose stools in a 24-hour period) or *Salmonella* infection between April 1 and the date of the interview.
 - History of travel outside of U.S. or Canada between April 1 and the date of the interview.
 - Controls will be recruited through forward digit dialing as follows:
 - The phone number for each case will be used as a basis for the string of telephone numbers dialed to identify controls. The first number dialed will be one digit up from the 10-digit phone number (i.e., add one to the last digit of the phone number). Numbers will be dialed sequentially up one digit until 2 controls for the matching age group are successfully enrolled.
 - When a person answers the phone, a standardized introduction will be read. The person answering the phone will be asked whether there are any individuals in the household within the same age range as the case for the corresponding case. That person will be interviewed for the study.
 - For persons age 16 years or over, verbal assent from the control will be obtained (this is our practice in WA, and the actual age for consent may vary in your state/province, and may need to be adjusted)
 - For persons under the age of 16, verbal assent from the parent or guardian will be obtained.
 - For persons ages 13 years and older, the interview will be conducted with the case/control, unless the parent or guardian has more precise information about purchase and/or preparation of cantaloupe, in which case an interview with both may be needed.
 - For persons ages 2-12 years, the interview will be conducted with the parent or guardian.
- Controls will be asked about the exposure period for the five days preceeding the date of their interview.