



County of Sacramento

BOTULISM ALERT
May 16, 2017

Situational Update

The California Department of Public Health, in collaboration with Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) and neighboring county public health departments, is continuing to investigate an outbreak of foodborne botulism. This outbreak is associated with prepared food, particularly nacho cheese sauce, from the Valley Oak Food and Fuel gas station in Walnut Grove (Sacramento County). The Sacramento County Environmental Management Department collected the nacho cheese sauce on May 5 and stopped the sale of all prepared food at Valley Oak Food and Fuel gas station on May 6. Nine cases have been identified to date. It is possible that additional cases with compatible illness and exposure exist but have not yet been accurately diagnosed with botulism. Please see below the actions requested of clinicians at this time:

Actions Requested of All Clinicians:

1. **Report** all patients with suspect botulism to SCPH *immediately* via phone (916) 875-5881 AND electronically via CalREDIE or via confidential fax (916) 854-9709.
2. **Consider** botulism as a differential diagnosis for patients exhibiting blurred vision, diplopia (double vision), ptosis (drooping eyelids), dysphagia (trouble swallowing), dysarthria (difficulty speaking), impaired gag reflex, and/or facial weakness.
3. **Collect** pre-treatment specimens and coordinate with SCPH for laboratory testing.
4. **Treat** patient(s) immediately with Heptavalent Botulism Antitoxin (HBAT) based on compatible clinical presentation. HBAT can be requested through SCPH. Laboratory confirmation is not required prior to treatment.
5. **Inquire** about exposure to prepared food, particularly nacho cheese sauce, from the Valley Oak Food and Fuel gas station in Walnut Grove, for patients exhibiting botulism symptoms.

For more information about botulism, call SCPH Disease Control at (919) 875-5881; SCPH is available to take calls regarding suspect botulism 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Olivia Kasirye MD".

Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS
Public Health Officer