

Title: An Outbreak Of Foodborne Illness, Boamang-Kyerekrom D/A Primary School, Afigya Kwabre North District, Ghana

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On 6th June 2019, Afigya Kwabre North District Health Administration reported a suspected foodborne illness involving primary school pupils at Boamang Kyerekrom D/A Primary School. Investigation was done to identify the source, risk factors and to implement control and preventive measures.

We conducted active case search and a retrospective cohort study. A case was a person from Boamang presenting with fever, diarrhoea, or/and vomiting from 29th May to 7th June, 2019. Data was collected using questionnaires and review of health records. Environmental assessment was done. Stool sample of the last reported case and saltpetre used to prepare okro by food vendor was sent to the laboratory for investigation. All other diarrheal cases had being given antibiotics upon our arrival. Risk ratio was estimated to determine food with highest risk of causing illness.

Of 312 people interviewed, 96 pupils were affected (AR=30.8%). Common symptoms were fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pains and bloody diarrhoea. There was no fatality. All cases were found to have eaten from a kenkey seller on the school premises. Risk ratio was highest (6.7) among those who took okro with the kenkey. Salmonella typhi was isolated in the stool of the last reported case as well as the saltpetre used to prepare the okro. Cases were distributed across four (4) neighbouring communities in Boamang.

In conclusion, foodborne outbreak was caused by Salmonella typhi from the saltpetre used in preparing okro sold by a school vendor. We recommend enhancement of sanitary conditions at school premises and among school vendors.

Biography

Eunice Baiden Laryea is a Ghanaian and a resident at the Ghana Field Epidemiology and Laboratory training Program. She completed his Bachelor of Pharmacy at the age of 24 years from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana and is currently offering MPhil. Applied Epidemiology and Disease Control from School of Public Health, University of Ghana. She is the superintendent pharmacist for BIOFEM GH LTD., a multinational pharmaceutical marketing organization. She has a publication in the Donnish Journal of Medicinal Plant Research. Her research interests are infectious disease control, immunization and antimicrobial resistance.

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