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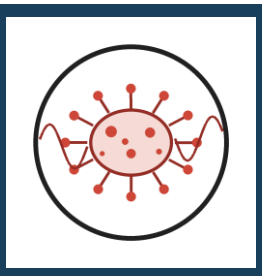

LEVEL OF ALERT: ROUTINE

SALMONELLA ENTERITIDIS (National outbreak)

Foodborne illness awareness for water jetting, drainage and sewer teams

Mainly foodborne. Good hygiene protects the team.

1. What is Salmonella?

- **A group of bacteria.** It can cause food poisoning or gastroenteritis.
- **Main route:** swallowing the germ from contaminated food, water, hands or surfaces.
- **Other routes:** contact with someone with diarrhoea or with unwell animals; sewage can contain germs from infected people.
- **Usual illness:** diarrhoea, stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and fever.
- **Timing:** UKHSA notes symptoms usually develop 12-72 hours after infection, and illness usually lasts 4-7 days.

Current outbreak alert: the attached UKHSA briefing reports S. Enteritidis t5.9411 in England and Scotland, with 27 confirmed cases as of 8 June 2026, 8 hospital admissions and one death. It points to a food-business link and raw/lightly cooked egg dishes in several cases; it does not identify sewer or drainage work as the source.

2. Why WJA members should know

- Drain, sewer and water jetting work may involve sewage, dirty water, contaminated spray, dirty tools and confined/welfare areas.
- The practical route for WJA workers is usually hand-to-mouth: eating, drinking, smoking/vaping or touching face, phone or cab controls with contaminated hands or gloves.
- Splashes or mist to the eyes, mouth or nose also matter during jetting, blockage clearing and decontamination.
- This is awareness and prevention, not a reason to stop routine work where controls are in place.

SEPARATE	WASH	REPORT
clean/dirty	soap and water	symptoms/exposure

Before starting: does the job involve any of these?

- □ Sewage, sludge, flood water, standing water or dirty debris may splash or aerosolise.
- □ Handwashing, warm water, soap, drying facilities or welfare separation are inadequate.
- □ Uncontrolled splash to eyes/mouth, broken skin, or contamination of cab/tools.
- □ Food, drink, cigarettes/vapes, phones, lunch boxes or clean PPE could enter the dirty area.
- □ A worker has diarrhoea/vomiting now or had it in the last 48 hours.
- □ Shared food/welfare area, raw/lightly cooked egg dishes, or linked gastrointestinal illness.

If yes: pause, make a simple hygiene/splash-control plan before work. Separate clean/dirty, wash hands with soap and water, and report illness. Do not create unnecessary spray/aerosol.

Current context (June 2026): the attached UKHSA briefing is a public-health foodborne Salmonella alert. For WJA members, the immediate work control remains hygiene, splash control, clean/dirty separation, and staying away from work while ill.

Routine	Controlled task	Stop/escalate
No illness, no splash/contamination issue, welfare/hygiene in place: continue normal RAMS, PPE and hand hygiene.	Dirty water/splash risk or imperfect welfare: pause, contain spray, set clean/dirty zones, improve handwashing and PPE.	Vomiting/diarrhoea at work, sewage splash to mouth/eyes, injection wound, blood in stool, or several linked cases: stop and get advice.

On-site control plan for Salmonella-aware drainage and sewer work

Use this as a simple add-on to the job risk assessment. Local WJA, company, client, confined-space and public-health rules take precedence.

1. STOP / PLAN

- **Confirm clean/dirty zones and handwashing** before work starts.
- **Keep food and clean items out.** No eating, drinking, tobacco, vapes, phones or lunch boxes in dirty areas.
- **Cover cuts.** Use waterproof dressings before putting on PPE.
- **Food premises/public areas?** Agree isolation and cleaning with the client; use EHO/public-health advice if under investigation.

2. CONTROL SPLASH / AEROSOL

- **Contain spray.** Use barriers, screens, remote methods and the lowest practical splash/aerosol.
- **Keep people out.** Only essential workers in the splash zone.
- **Flush splashes.** If sewage reaches eyes or mouth, rinse/flush with safe water and report.
- **Injection injury?** Treat high-pressure injection or penetrating wounds as a surgical emergency.

3. PPE / RPE AND HYGIENE

- **Protect skin and eyes.** Wear waterproof gloves, boots, coveralls/apron and eye/face protection selected for the task.
- **Wash hands with soap and water** after removing PPE and before breaks, smoking/vaping or leaving site.
- **Gel is a backup.** Do not rely on alcohol gel when hands are visibly dirty.
- **Doff carefully.** Avoid touching face, phones, cab controls and clean items with dirty gloves.

4. AFTER THE JOB

- **Clean/decontaminate** tools, boots, hoses, screens and reusable PPE according to site rules.
- **Bag contaminated clothing** for workplace laundering or disposal; do not take heavily soiled items home.
- **Protect the cab.** Clean vehicle touch-points if contaminated.
- **Log and review** illness, splash, contaminated wounds, shared food or breaks in control.

Do

- **Treat sewage/dirty water** as potentially contaminated.
- **Keep clean and dirty areas separate.**
- **Wash hands with soap and water** before breaks and after PPE.
- **Stay off work** until 48 hours after diarrhoea/vomiting stops.
- **Tell medical staff** about sewage exposure if unwell.

Do not

- Do not eat, drink, smoke or vape in dirty work areas.
- Do not touch face, phone, lunch box or cab controls with dirty gloves.
- Do not ignore vomiting, diarrhoea, blood in stool or dehydration.
- Do not treat high-pressure injection as a wait-and-see infection issue.

Credible exposure for reporting: swallowing sewage or dirty water; splash to mouth/eyes; hand-to-mouth contamination after dirty gloves/hands; contaminated cut/wound; high-pressure injection/penetrating injury; or linked diarrhoea/vomiting in workers sharing site, food or welfare. Routine drain/sewer work with controls and no illness is not, by itself, a Salmonella alert.

Symptoms, medical action and key conclusions

Most diarrhoea and vomiting is not Salmonella - but hygiene and early reporting protect the worker and the team.

Exposure	Watch period	Early illness	Urgent signs
swallowed sewage/dirty water, hand-to-mouth or raw-egg-linked food	usually 12-72 h; CDC notes 6 h-6 d possible	diarrhoea, cramps, fever, vomiting	blood, dehydration, high fever, severe pain

Early symptoms to report

- Diarrhoea - watery, bloody or with mucus.
- Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting or loss of appetite.
- Fever, headache, muscle aches or feeling generally unwell.
- Signs of dehydration: very dark urine, dizziness, dry mouth, extreme thirst or passing little urine.
- Symptoms after swallowing dirty water, hand-to-mouth contamination, shared food/welfare illness, sewage splash to mouth/eyes or contaminated wound.

Seek urgent help now

- **Call 111/medical advice now if:** unable to keep fluids down, signs of dehydration, bloody diarrhoea, vomiting for more than 2 days, or diarrhoea for more than 7 days.
- **Call local emergency number (999/112/911) or go to ED/A&E if:** collapse, confusion, severe sudden abdominal pain, vomiting blood, or any high-pressure injection/penetrating injury.
- **Seek same-day advice** for pregnancy, infants/children, older adults, weakened immunity, significant health problems, or severe/prolonged symptoms.

Do not drive yourself if faint, confused or very dehydrated. Do not self-prescribe antibiotics.

Medical information to say or show:

"I work in high-pressure water jetting/drainage/sewer environments. On [date] at [site], I may have swallowed or had splashes of sewage/contaminated water or had hand-to-mouth exposure. Symptoms started on [date]. Please consider Salmonella and other sewage-related gastrointestinal infections, and stool testing/public-health advice if clinically indicated. If there was any high-pressure injection or penetrating wound, please treat it as a contaminated surgical emergency."

Supervisor actions after a credible exposure

- **Do not allow a worker with vomiting or diarrhoea** to continue on site; help them get home safely.
- **Record** date, site, task, exposure route, PPE used, welfare/handwashing conditions and any shared food.
- **Review controls:** clean/dirty separation, splash control, decontamination and handwashing.
- **Follow company reporting, occupational-health and public-health/EHO advice** if several linked cases or a food-premises investigation occurs.

Key conclusions for WJA members

- **The attached UKHSA alert is foodborne;** it does not identify sewer jetting as the source.
- **For WJA work, control is practical:** keep food/faces away from dirty hands, control splashes, wash with soap and water, and separate clean/dirty areas.
- **Stay away from work until at least 48 hours** after diarrhoea or vomiting has stopped; food-handling/care settings may need extra local advice.
- **Seek medical advice** for severe or prolonged symptoms, blood in stool, dehydration, high fever, higher-risk health status, or credible sewage ingestion/splash.
- **Any high-pressure injection injury is a trauma/surgical emergency** - do not wait to see if infection develops.

Sources used: UKHSA Briefing Note 2026/020, National outbreak of Salmonella Enteritidis (t5.9411), 17 June 2026; UKHSA Salmonella in humans guidance, data and analysis; NHS diarrhoea and vomiting; NHS food poisoning; CDC Food Poisoning Symptoms; CDC Protecting Workers Handling Human Waste; Food Standards Agency Salmonella risk profile of UK-produced hen shell eggs; Rodriguez-Villar et al., Management of industrial high-pressure fluid injection injuries: the WJA experience, 2019.