



health

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Whole Genome Sequencing results of *Listeria monocytogenes* found at Rainbow Foods' Wolwehoek production facility

The Ministry of Health confirms that the result of laboratory tests done on environmental samples collected from RCL Foods' Wolwehoek production facility showed *Listeria monocytogenes*. However, whole genome sequencing has confirmed that the strains found in the production facility are **not** the ST6 outbreak strain which has caused 91% of the human cases during the outbreak. This corroborates the results reported by RCL Foods at a French laboratory.

Our findings do not, in anyway, change what we announced on 4th of March 2018 – namely that *Listeria* was found in the RCL Foods production facility in Wolwehoek in Sasolburg.

While there is no evidence of ST6 (the outbreak strain) in the sampled RCL Foods' retail polony products or the production facility, the presence of *L. monocytogenes* of other sequence types in retail polony chubs as well as the production facility do also cause the disease and require corrective actions and monitoring.

Issued by the Ministry of Health

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