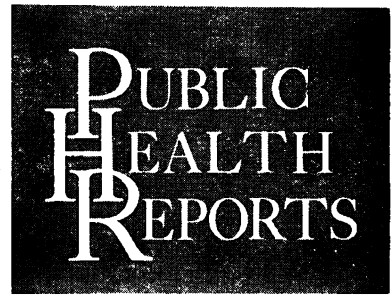


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**McCROAN, JOHN E.** (Georgia Department of Public Health), **McKINLEY, THOMAS W., BRIM, ALICE, and HENNING, WILLIAM C.:** *Staphylococci and salmonellae in commercial wrapped sandwiches.* *Public Health Reports, Vol. 79, November 1964, pp. 997-1004.*

A total of 820 commercially prepared, wrapped sandwiches of various kinds were evaluated bacteriologically when fresh and after 48-hours exposure to conditions of ambient temperature encountered routinely. The pH of samples was also determined at these intervals. Coliform counts tended to decrease in salad-type sandwiches during holding. No salmonellae were found.

Staphylococci were sometimes very numerous, but few were coagulase-positive. No significant increase in these could be demonstrated with aging of sandwiches. Coagulase-positive staphylococci inoculated into egg salad and chicken salad sandwiches failed to increase appreciably when held at room temperature for 48 hours, but large saprophytic populations developed under these conditions. Competition from these saprophytic organisms was thought to

have been partially responsible for suppressing the growth of inoculated staphylococci. Acidity also appeared to be an important factor.

Spiced ham and cheese sandwiches seem to be more hazardous. However, growth of coagulase-positive staphylococci was affected by placing the inoculum on the side of the spiced ham in contact with the mayonnaise.

The customary use of commercial mayonnaise and other acid ingredients produces a low pH which with time tends to become more acid, often creating an unfavorable environment for the growth or even survival of the limited numbers of coagulase-positive staphylococci which occur. Results of this study offer some insight into the epidemiologic observation that these products, although seemingly mishandled, are rarely incriminated in food poisoning outbreaks.

**DANDROY, SUZANNE** (University of California Center for Health Services), and **McKENNA, EDWARD M.:** *Laboratory reporting of syphilis reactors in the Los Angeles program.* *Public Health Reports, Vol. 79, November 1964, pp. 1015-1020.*

In March 1962 California adopted a regulation requiring private laboratories to notify local health departments of reactive serologic tests for syphilis. To implement the regulation, the Los Angeles City Health Department visited 220 laboratory directors and established a routine for handling the reports. A study of 263 clinic patients determined the high-titer serum dilution which would indicate reactors with early infectious syphilis. With reactivity at 1:8 serum dilution, 89 percent of the patients were diagnosed as having infectious or potentially infectious syphilis. All biologic false positive reactors had serum reactive at dilutions of 1:4 or less.

In 1963 more than 8,000 persons were brought to the attention of the city health department through the laboratory reactor program. Health department followup of reactors was responsible for reporting 38.8 percent of the primary and secondary syphilis and 46.8 percent of the early latent syphilis in the city of Los Angeles.

Although laboratory directors complained about the mechanics of the notification procedure and felt that it might be interpreted as interference with the doctor-patient confidential relationship, they considered the regulation an important and effective tool in the control of venereal disease.

**HALL, LAWRENCE B.** (Public Health Service), and **HARTNETT, MARGARET J.:** *Measurement of the bacterial contamination on surfaces in hospitals.* *Public Health Reports, Vol. 79, November 1964, pp. 1021-1024.*

The study of hospital-acquired infections has emphasized the need for simple techniques for quantitative sampling of bacteria on surfaces in hospitals such as floors, walls, and instruments, as well as on surfaces of the human body. Existing techniques have been largely developed for purposes of food sanitation. A disposable plastic contact plate for solid-media sampling of surfaces that is particularly useful in hospital sanitation has

been developed. An area approximately 4 square inches in size is sampled with each plate. Bacterial colonies that develop are counted directly on the medium in the sampling plate. The plates are now available commercially and are delivered assembled, presterilized, and ready for filling. Prepared plates can be stored at 4° C. at relative humidities of 70 to 80 percent for several weeks and used as needed.

*The nature of a paper, not its importance or significance, determines whether a synopsis is printed. See "Information for Contributors" on next page.*

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