



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Dear Dr. Tauxe,

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), requests the assistance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the investigation of an outbreak of suspected botulism among federal prisoners incarcerated in Yazoo, Mississippi. This suspected outbreak involves 14 suspected cases in Mississippi, of which 13 are hospitalized in Jackson, Mississippi. Although the suspected vehicle is hooch, also known as pruno or prison wine, further assistance is needed to determine the source and scope of the outbreak, identify risk factors for illness, implement control measures, and provide educational messages to prevent future outbreaks. We hope that the investigation can shed light on factors contributing to this situation that will inform future prevention efforts.

The MSDH will lead in this investigation and retain ownership of all data collected. The BOP will provide support to MDH and CDC for liaising with affected penitentiaries. MDH will facilitate communications with associated hospitals involved in this outbreak. Please contact me with any questions.

We look forward to working with the CDC on this challenging issue.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Dobbs".

Thomas Dobbs MD, MPH  
State Epidemiologist  
Mississippi State Department of Health