

STATEMENT ON GASTROINTESTINAL ILLNESS CASES AT THE UNIVERSITY RESTAURANTS IN TAMPERE

An investigation is underway in Pirkanmaa to potentially identify an epidemic spread through food. The infection unit of the Pirkanmaa welfare region and the food control department of the City of Tampere announce that there have been 43 suspected cases in the Pirkanmaa area, of which 12 have been confirmed as *Yersinia enterocolitica* cases. The first known case occurred on March 24th. The Tampere City Food Control Authority suspects primarily pre-contaminated raw material, likely delivered to the restaurants at the turn of March and April. However, this cannot be confirmed with certainty yet. According to the current official information from authorities, no new cases of illness are currently reported.

On April 30th, the Tampere food control authority confirmed that the focal points of the epidemic had been identified at the Restaurant Arvo and the YO Restaurant. Cases of illness have been observed in these restaurants, but *Yersinia enterocolitica* has only been confirmed in some cases. The authorities are investigating other locations besides the university.

Yersinia does not transmit from person to person; instead, inadequately cooked vegetables are suspected as the cause of the epidemic. The food authority and the supplier are engaged in active discussions to find the original source.

The following precautions have been taken to investigate the matter:

- Raw carrots nationwide, as well as iceberg lettuce and Chinese cabbage, have been removed from all Juvenes menus in Pirkanmaa until further notice.
- All Juvenes restaurants and kitchens have been informed about this.
- Active and open discussion with the supplier and food control authorities is ongoing.

Typically, illness for healthy individuals does not result in severe disease, but individuals who remain unwell should contact their local healthcare provider if the infection persists. If symptoms suggest *Yersinia enterocolitica*, mention it.

For more information:

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