

EN

E-002674/2026

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(20.8.2026)

1. At the time of publication of the joint Rapid Outbreak Assessment (ROA) by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on 19 February 2026, which consolidated the available evidence, food poisoning caused by cereulide was not a notifiable disease in most EU/EEA<sup>1</sup> countries. The organisation of national disease notification systems and communication of public health guidance are the responsibility of Member States. The ECDC supported Member States by facilitating information exchange through EpiPulse, publishing a European outbreak case definition on 6 March 2026, and providing scientific support.
2. Clinical pathways, diagnostic procedures, and retrospective analyses fall within Member States' competences. The Commission does not systematically collect information on these measures. At the time of publication of the ROA, cereulide toxin testing in human (faecal) samples was not routinely available in clinical laboratories across Member States. The ECDC supported Member States by providing access to such testing through a contracted laboratory.
3. RASFF<sup>2</sup> notifications 2026.3862<sup>3</sup> and 2026.3863<sup>4</sup> were submitted by Ireland as alert notifications with a 'serious risk' classification. This was a decision of the Irish authorities. These notifications were handled like previous cereulide notifications. All Alert notifications require rapid action by the network.

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<sup>1</sup> European Economic Area.

<sup>2</sup> Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed.

<sup>3</sup> <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/rasff-window/screen/notification/841471>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/rasff-window/screen/notification/841474>.