



**MLS: Laboratory Update
E. coli O157:H7 cases Linked to Toll
House Brand Cookie Dough
June 19, 2009**



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This is a routine message from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Laboratory System (MLS). This message is being sent to MLS laboratory contacts serving Minnesota residents. You are not required to reply to this message.

E. coli O157:H7 cases linked to eating raw Toll House brand cookie dough.

State health officials are investigating six cases of E. coli O157:H7 infection in Minnesota residents associated with eating a popular brand of raw, commercially packaged cookie dough

Routine monitoring by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) found that the cases of illness were all caused by E. coli O157:H7 with the same DNA fingerprint. The individuals became ill between May 3 and June 11. All six reported eating raw cookie dough of the Nestle's Toll House brand. The cases range in age from 2 to 18 years of age; five (83 percent) are female. One was hospitalized. All have recovered.

Minnesota's cases are linked by the same DNA fingerprint to cases of E. coli infection in at least 66 people in 28 states. In addition, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the vast majority of the people interviewed reported eating raw cookie dough of the same brand.

It has not yet been determined how the E. coli bacteria got into the cookie dough, but the FDA is working with the Nestle company to answer that question. "Cookie dough, whether purchased in a tub from the store, or made at home from scratch, should not be eaten raw," said Carlota Medus, epidemiologist in the foodborne illness unit with MDH.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is assisting with the ongoing investigation in Minnesota.

MLS Laboratories

Please continue to REFER ISOLATES to MDH – Public Health Laboratory from potential cases of E. coli O157:H7 found in your laboratory.

More information on E. coli O157:H7 can be found under Hot Topics at:
<http://www.health.state.mn.us>.

Thank you,

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