

MLS: Laboratory Update
E. coli Cases in MN Associated with Raw Milk

May 27, 2010

Purpose of this Message

To inform laboratorians about an E. coli O157:H7 outbreak being investigated by MDH and to ask for timely submission of all possible E. coli O157:H7 isolates.

Background

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has recently identified a cluster of four E. coli O157:H7 cases with indistinguishable pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) patterns. Three of the cases have been hospitalized, and one has developed hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS). These cases have occurred in multiple areas of the state. Three of the cases are linked to raw milk from Hartmann's Dairy, also known as M.O.M.'s, in Gibbon, Minnesota. The fourth case is still under investigation. Consumers may not recognize the milk as being unpasteurized, only that it may have been labeled as "organic". For entire news release please go to:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/news/pressrel/2010/ecoli052610.html>

Anyone who has experienced illness after consuming any dairy products from Hartmann's Farm should consult their health care provider. In addition, we are requesting that individuals call MDH at 651-201-5414. Clinical specimens and/or isolates from E. coli O157:H7 cases should be forwarded onto the MDH Public Health Laboratory for additional subtyping.

For more information on of E. coli O157:H7, please refer to the MDH site at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/ecoli/index.html>

Questions on the prevention of E. coli O157:H7 can be directed to the MDH Acute Disease Investigation and Control Section at 651-201-5414.

Thank you,

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This is an update from the Minnesota Department of Health – Public Health Laboratory (MDH-PHL) 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.

****Please forward this to all appropriate personnel within your institution and Health System****

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