



To: Emergency Medical Alert Network (EMAN) Participants
Date: September 22, 2006

***E.coli* 0157:H7 Outbreak and Raw Milk Consumption**

An 8-year old boy and 8-year old girl in San Diego County have developed *E.coli* 0157:H7 infection following consumption of raw milk produced by Organic Pastures of Fresno County. Two (2) additional cases, a 10-year old girl from San Bernardino and a 7-year old boy from Riverside, have developed Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS) following consumption of raw milk products from the same company. All raw milk products from this company have since been recalled by the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

The 8-year old San Diego girl developed symptoms of bloody diarrhea, vomiting, fever and abdominal pain after consuming raw milk on 9/2 and 9/3. The 8-year old boy developed similar symptoms after consuming raw milk on 9/8. Isolates from the 2 San Diego cases have identical PFGE patterns. This pattern is different from the PFGE pattern associated with raw spinach.

San Diego health care providers are reminded to order stool cultures on all patients with symptoms suggestive of *E.coli* 0157:H7 infection, particularly unexplained bloody diarrhea, regardless of reported exposure history. Please promptly report all confirmed cases to the Community Epidemiology Branch and forward isolates to the San Diego County Public Health Laboratory (619-692-8500).

Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS) Reporting

Given the current *E.coli* 0157:H7 outbreaks associated with spinach, and now raw milk consumption, San Diego County health care providers are requested to survey recent medical records for cases of Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS) with onsets since August 1, 2006, *regardless of history of diarrhea*, and report known or suspected cases (that haven't already been reported) to the Community Epidemiology Branch. HUS is a legally-reportable condition in San Diego County. The case definition for HUS is provided on the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/EPO/DPHSI/casedef/hemolyticcurrent.htm>

Update on Multi-State Outbreak of *E.coli* 0157:H7 Associated with Fresh Spinach

To date, 166 cases of *E.coli* 0157:H7 infection from 23 states have been linked to an ongoing outbreak associated with consumption of fresh spinach. Of those ill, 88 (53%) were hospitalized, 27 (16%) developed HUS, and an adult in Wisconsin died. Most cases (90%) developed illness between August 19 and September 5, 2006. To date, no cases associated with this outbreak have been reported in San Diego County. For ongoing updates, please visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov>.

Thank you for your continued participation.

Emergency Medical Alert Network (EMAN)

County of San Diego, Health & Human Services Agency
Community Epidemiology Branch