



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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E. COLI CONTAMINATION OF RAW MILK ANNOUNCED

Local Child Sickened; County Health and Human Services is Monitoring for More Illness

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Public Health Services (PHS), is monitoring for bacterial illness after the California Veterinarian ordered a recall of raw milk contaminated with E. coli, and three reported illnesses, one in San Diego County.

An 8-year-old San Diego County girl was sickened with bacterial infection after consuming raw milk produced by Organic Pastures of Fresno County. The State has ordered all Organic Pastures whole and skim raw milk be pulled immediately from retail shelves and consumers are strongly urged to dispose of any product remaining in their refrigerators. Until further notice, Organic Pastures may not produce raw milk for the retail market. The order also affects Organic Pastures raw cream and raw colostrum. A 10-year old girl in San Bernardino County and a 7-year old Riverside County boy also were affected. While this E.coli outbreak is linked to raw milk, most milk consumed in California is pasteurized. Raw milk is not. Pasteurization eliminates the risk of bacterial illness.

E. coli infection often causes abdominal cramps and bloody diarrhea. There is usually little or no fever, and the illness typically resolves itself in five to 10 days. A small percentage of infected individuals may also develop hemolytic uremic syndrome, a condition in which red blood cells are destroyed and kidney failure may occur. Those most at risk for serious complications of this food-borne illness include young children, the elderly and those with compromised immune systems. Consumers should seek immediate medical care if they develop these symptoms.

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