

The Department of Health has been working with the CDC and FDA on an investigation into of E. coli cases in four counties. The CDC has determined that there is a multistate E. coli outbreak, for more details visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2018/o157h7-04-18/index.html>

The source of this outbreak has not yet been identified. This investigation is still ongoing.

While those who are infected with E. Coli usually get better by themselves within about 5 to 7 days, some illnesses can be serious or even life-threatening. We encourage people to contact their health care provider if they have diarrhea that lasts for more than 3 days or is accompanied by high fever, blood in the stool, or so much vomiting that they cannot keep liquids down and they pass very little urine. In addition, about 5 to 10% of people who are diagnosed with Shiga toxin-producing E. coli infection develop a potentially life-threatening complication known as hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS). HUS develops about 7 days after symptoms first appear, when diarrhea is improving. Clues that someone is developing HUS include decreased frequency of urination, feeling very tired, and losing pink color in cheeks and inside the lower eyelids. Any who develop these symptoms should seek out medical care.

It can be very difficult to determine where someone got sick. Individuals could have eaten a number of meals in a number of places before becoming ill. They could have eaten at several restaurants, at home or eaten food purchased at a supermarket.

Sometimes the food source associated with illness is never determined. That's why we conduct many interviews with sick individuals to get food history data and work with food safety officials to investigate food sources.