



**Iowa Department of Public Health**  
Promoting and Protecting the Health of Iowans

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Thomas Newton, MPP, REHS  
Director

Chester J. Culver  
Governor

Patty Judge  
Lt. Governor

July 8, 2010

James E. Freemyer, P.C.  
Attorneys At Law  
1575 Race Street  
Denver, CO 80206

Re: *E.coli* O157: H7 Outbreak of September/October 2009 Cluster 0910MLEXH-1

Dear Mr. Freemyer:

Thank you for your request dated June 25, 2010, asking for information concerning *E.coli* O157:H7 Cluster 0910MLEXH-1. IDPH has included with this letter a packet of information or documents that can lawfully be released under Iowa's Open Records Law (Iowa Code 22.1, *et seq.*) We have not included with this request documents which contain personally identifiable information or documents which identify businesses involved in this investigation as such documents are confidential pursuant to Iowa Code sections 139.A.3, 22.7(2) and 22.7(16).

Please let us know if the Iowa Department of Public Health can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Pam Deichmann, RN, MPH  
Bureau Chief  
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
321 E 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
Phone: 515-281-4985  
E-mail: [pdeichma@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:pdeichma@idph.state.ia.us)

## Von Stein, Diana

---

**From:** Schwensohn, Colin A. (CDC/CCID/NCZVED) (CTR) [hvq4@cdc.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 08, 2009 12:52 PM  
**To:** Von Stein, Diana; Carlota Medus (MDH); Shaun Cosgrove; nicole.comstock@state.co.us; Phan, Quyen; David.Bergmire-Sweat@ncmail.net; joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov  
**Subject:** E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1  
**Attachments:** 0910MLEXH-1.xls

<<0910MLEXH-1.xls>>

Dear Colleagues,

PulseNet has detected an *E. coli* O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 with XbaI/BlnI pattern combination EXHX01.3227/EXHA26.0675. There are a total of 9 isolates from CO(2), CT(1), IA(2), MN(2), MO(1) and NC(1) with specimen isolation dates from 9/10/09 to 9/22/09. Our colleagues in IA report they have two unrelated cases that traveled to Omaha, NE and ate at a common restaurant in the week prior to illness. If you have any additional epi information please feel free to share with the group.

Thanks,  
Colin

---

**Colin Schwensohn, MPH**  
Surveillance Epidemiologist  
Enteric Diseases Epidemiology Branch  
Division of Foodborne, Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases  
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road, MS-A38  
Atlanta, Georgia 30333  
Tel. 404.639.3177 / Fax. 404.639.3535  
[hvq4@cdc.gov](mailto:hvq4@cdc.gov)

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I just spoke with MN and their case also traveled to Omaha and ate at an Italian restaurant on 9/5/09, this patient developed HUS but recovered. MN is going to re-contact their case to get more detail on the restaurant, I'll let you know what I hear.

Thanks,  
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**To:** Schwensohn, Colin A. (CDC/CCID/NCZVED) (CTR)  
**Subject:** re

Only one case reported what she ate. She ate the chicken pasta.  
Thanks.

Diana L Von Stein BS, MPH  
Epidemiologist  
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
Lucas Building  
321 E. 12th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Phone: 515-242-5114  
Fax: 515-281-5698  
Email: [dvonstei@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:dvonstei@idph.state.ia.us)

"I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure." - Louis Lasagna

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**From:** Zook, Sherry [zook@MGMC.COM]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 08, 2009 4:57 PM  
**To:** Von Stein, Diana  
**Subject:** RE: E.coli

Dear Diana,

Yes, you certainly may contact the IDSS case #52541. If you need any additional information from HOMEWARD Public Health please feel free to contact us.

1 800- 529-4610. My cell phone number is 515-203-1503.

Thank You,

Sherry Zook R.N., B.S.N.

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**To:** Zook, Sherry  
**Subject:** Re: E.coli

Hi Sherry,

How are you this afternoon? I wanted to let you know that IDSS case# 52541, an Ecoli, is part of a national cluster of E.coli. Therefore I may need to contact this case again to get more information about her exposures.

I just wanted to ask if that was alright with you. Some counties prefer to contact their own cases. Please let me know if this is alright.

Thanks.

Diana

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\*The information contained in this message may be privileged and confidential and protected from disclosure. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by replying to the message and deleting it from your computer. Thank you.  
Mary Greeley Medical Center\*

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Thanks,  
Quyen

Quyen Phan, MPH  
Epidemiology and Emerging Infections Program  
Connecticut Department of Public Health  
410 Capitol Ave., MS# 11EPI  
PO Box 340308  
Hartford, CT 06134-0308  
Phone: 860-509-7994  
Fax: 860-509-7910  
Email: [quyen.phan@ct.gov](mailto:quyen.phan@ct.gov)

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## Von Stein, Diana

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**From:** Schwensohn, Colin A. (CDC/CCID/NCZVED) (CTR) [hvq4@cdc.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 09, 2009 10:09 AM  
**To:** Von Stein, Diana; Cronquist, Alicia (CDC state.co.us); Phan, Quyen; David.Bergmire-Sweat@ncmail.net; joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov; jsadlows@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us; Kirk Smith (MDH); dennis.leschinsky@dhhs.ne.gov; Trisha Robinson (MDH)  
**Cc:** Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/CCID/NCZVED); Nguyen, Thai-An (CDC/CCID/NCZVED)  
**Subject:** E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 Conference Call

Dear Colleagues,

CDC and our state public health partners would like to propose a conference call at **2pm EDT today (10/9/09)** to discuss *E. coli* O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1. We apologize for the short notice but we would like to discuss recent epi developments and next steps in the investigation. If you can not join the call, I will be sending out a summary email to update the group.

Conference line: **1.866.797.9293**  
Passcode: **2360067**

Thanks,  
Colin

**Colin Schwensohn, MPH**  
Surveillance Epidemiologist  
Enteric Diseases Epidemiology Branch  
Division of Foodborne, Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases  
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<< File: 0910MLEXH-1.xls >>  
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[hvq4@cdc.gov](mailto:hvq4@cdc.gov)

## Von Stein, Diana

---

**From:** Smith, Kirk (MDH) [Kirk.Smith@state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2009 4:48 PM  
**To:** Williams, Ian (CDC/CCID/NCZVED); Schwensohn, Colin A. (CDC/CCID/NCZVED) (CTR); Robinson, Trisha (MDH); Von Stein, Diana; Leschinsky, Dennis; Bergmire-sweat, David; Cronquist, Alicia (CDC state.co.us); Phan, Quyen; David.Bergmire-Sweat@ncmail.net; joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov; jsadlows@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us  
**Cc:** Tauxe, Robert V. (CDC/CCID/NCZVED); Guzewich, John J; Potter, Morris  
**Subject:** RE: E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 update.

To be frank, those are not good reasons. I explained the outbreak being over one, and I'm sure you agree. As for resources, their excuse for the last one was that it was nearing the end of the fiscal year. Well, now it's a new fiscal year, and they still don't have resources? Outbreaks should be a lot higher up on their priority list than they apparently are now. What's really frustrating is that they are spending what has to be hundreds of thousands of dollars on all of these Coordinating Committee and Workgroup meetings designed to come up with tangible products to unveil at the next 50 state meeting to show the public how much more they're doing to improve food safety. Yet there are not resources to do something that could much more directly affect food safety. I find it all kind of hypocritical.

We do need to find solutions, because you're right – this is going to keep happening over and over.

Kirk Smith, DVM, MS, PhD  
Supervisor, Foodborne, Vectorborne, and Zoonotic Diseases Unit  
Acute Disease Investigation and Control Section  
Minnesota Department of Health  
Phone: 651-201-5240  
Fax: 651-201-5082  
kirk.smith@state.mn.us

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**From:** Williams, Ian (CDC/CCID/NCZVED) [mailto:iaw3@cdc.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2009 4:25 PM  
**To:** Smith, Kirk (MDH); Schwensohn, Colin A. (CDC/CCID/NCZVED) (CTR); Robinson, Trisha (MDH); Von Stein, Diana; Leschinsky, Dennis; Bergmire-sweat, David; Cronquist, Alicia (CDC state.co.us); Phan, Quyen; David.Bergmire-Sweat@ncmail.net; joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov; jsadlows@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us  
**Cc:** Tauxe, Robert V. (CDC/CCID/NCZVED); Guzewich, John J; Potter, Morris  
**Subject:** RE: E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 update.

Kirk,

My understanding from talking to FDA is the reason this not being pursued is 1) the outbreak appears over and 2) limited resources. This is the third such cluster this fall where we have attempted an "epi-driven traceback" (all possibly be associated with leafy greens). There have some important issues relating to roles/responsibilities and resources identified in all three of these. We need to try and find solutions to these issues as I having a feeling will will be doing more and more of these types of investigations in the future. I totally agree with you about engaging not only the Federal partners, but State Public Health and Agriculture/Food Protection in these discussions.

Ian

-----  
Ian Williams, PhD, MS  
Acting Chief, Outbreak Response and Prevention Branch



Division of Foodborne, Bacterial, and Mycotic Diseases  
National Center for Zoonotic, Vectorborne, and Enteric Diseases  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road - MS A38  
Atlanta, GA 30333  
Phone: 404-639-2210  
Fax: 404-639-2205  
Email: IWILLIAMS@CDC.GOV

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**From:** Smith, Kirk (MDH) [mailto:Kirk.Smith@state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2009 4:58 PM  
**To:** Schwensohn, Colin A. (CDC/CCID/NCZVED) (CTR); Robinson, Trisha (MDH); Von Stein, Diana; Leschinsky, Dennis; Bergmire-sweat, David; Cronquist, Alicia (CDC.state.co.us); Phan, Quyen; David.Bergmire-Sweat@ncmail.net; joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov; jsadlows@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us  
**Cc:** Williams, Ian (CDC/CCID/NCZVED); Tauxe, Robert V. (CDC/CCID/NCZVED); Guzewich, John J  
**Subject:** RE: E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 update.

Colin – please share this with the involved FDA staff. I've copied Jack G., but I'm sure there are others this could go to.

I think it is a huge mistake for FDA to drop this, if that is what they are thinking of doing (correct me if I'm wrong, but this is what it sounds like from reading between the lines). Even though this is not an ongoing outbreak, there is always something valuable to learn from each outbreak, even small ones. I don't think that whether or not an outbreak is ongoing should always be the overriding criteria of when to tank an investigation - if we went by that, we would not be worried about investigating the large majority of leafy green outbreaks. Maybe the involved farm is doing some sort of poor agricultural practice, and if not addressed they will cause another outbreak, maybe one that is much bigger. Maybe there's something to learn at the farm that would be of value to the industry, or its regulators.

It's not like we don't have much to go on and are chasing tenuous leads. It would not take all that much effort to do tracebacks of the leafy greens from the two multiple-case restaurants and figure this one out. It's low hanging fruit.

FDA has made a lot of public statements about being so much more proactive and aggressive about improving food safety (rah, rah). But the proof is in the pudding. Outbreak investigations are disproportionately important in assessing food safety in this country, and that is largely independent of whether or not a particular outbreak is still ongoing when it is solved. If FDA won't fully engage and work backwards from 2 restaurants on a rock solid lead, then all of their claims about making things better are all so much talk.

But most or all of this can be (and should be) done without FDA if they won't do it. It would be necessary to work with state agriculture departments (usually) in the states where the distributors of these restaurants are located. They usually have jurisdiction, or at least co-jurisdiction, for these facilities. In general I think we in epidemiology need to work more closely with our state ag departments on outbreaks like this. If they can be engaged, these types of investigations can be accomplished quite quickly. Then the California part of CALFERT can be given the info to do the work that needs to be done in California.

Sorry for the rant, but there have been several outbreaks this year that FDA hasn't done what could be done, and that is growing exceedingly frustrating. If FDA is doing what they should be doing on this one, then nevermind – I apologize!

Kirk

Kirk Smith, DVM, MS, PhD  
Supervisor, Foodborne, Vectorborne, and Zoonotic Diseases Unit  
Acute Disease Investigation and Control Section  
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**From:** Schwensohn, Colin A. (CDC/CCID/NCZVED) (CTR) [mailto:hvq4@CDC.GOV]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2009 2:00 PM

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**Subject:** E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 update.

Hello All,

Just wanted to provide a short update for *E. coli* O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1. There are 10 total cases nationwide with no new uploads to PulseNet since 10/13/09. We have shared available epi information with FDA but with no recent cases, this cluster is less of a priority. I just wanted to thank everyone for providing case information and restaurant invoice data, I realize it was quite a bit of work for what ended up being a smaller cluster. We'll wait to see if there are any additional uploads to PulseNet in the next couple of weeks before closing this cluster investigation but thanks again let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
Colin

**Colin Schwensohn, MPH**  
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Quyen Phan, MPH  
Epidemiology and Emerging Infections Program  
Connecticut Department of Public Health  
410 Capitol Ave., MS# 11EPI  
PO Box 340308  
Hartford, CT 06134-0308  
Phone: 860-509-7994  
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"I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure." - Louis Lasagna

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Mary Greeley Medical Center\*

## Von Stein, Diana

---

**From:** Schwensohn, Colin A. (CDC/CCID/NCZVED) (CTR) [hvq4@cdc.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 09, 2009 10:09 AM  
**To:** Von Stein, Diana; Cronquist, Alicia (CDC state.co.us); Phan, Quyen; David.Bergmire-Sweat@ncmail.net; joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov; jsadlows@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us; Kirk Smith (MDH); dennis.leschinsky@dhhs.ne.gov; Trisha Robinson (MDH)  
**Cc:** Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/CCID/NCZVED); Nguyen, Thai-An (CDC/CCID/NCZVED)  
**Subject:** E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 Conference Call

Dear Colleagues,

CDC and our state public health partners would like to propose a conference call at **2pm EDT today (10/9/09)** to discuss *E. coli* O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1. We apologize for the short notice but we would like to discuss recent epi developments and next steps in the investigation. If you can not join the call, I will be sending out a summary email to update the group.

Conference line: **1.866.797.9293**  
Passcode: **2360067**

Thanks,  
Colin

**Colin Schwensohn, MPH**  
Surveillance Epidemiologist  
Enteric Diseases Epidemiology Branch  
Division of Foodborne, Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases  
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road, MS-A38  
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Tel. 404.639.3177 / Fax. 404.639.3535  
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**From:** Schwensohn, Colin A. (CDC/CCID/NCZVED) (CTR)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 08, 2009 1:52 PM  
**To:** 'Von Stein, Diana'; 'Carlota Medus (MDH)'; 'Shaun Cosgrove'; 'nicole.comstock@state.co.us'; 'Phan, Quyen'; 'David.Bergmire-Sweat@ncmail.net'; 'joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov'

**Subject:** E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1

<< File: 0910MLEXH-1.xls >>

Dear Colleagues,

PulseNet has detected an *E. coli* O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 with XbaI/BlnI pattern combination EXHX01.3227/EXHA26.0675. There are a total of 9 isolates from CO(2), CT(1), IA(2), MN(2), MO(1) and NC(1) with specimen isolation dates from 9/10/09 to 9/22/09. Our colleagues in IA report they have two unrelated cases that traveled to Omaha, NE and ate at a common restaurant in the week prior to illness. If you have any additional epi information please feel free to share with the group.

Thanks,  
Colin

**Colin Schwensohn, MPH**  
Surveillance Epidemiologist

jsadlows@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us

**Cc:** Williams, Ian T. (CDC); Tauxe, Robert V. (CDC); CFSAN-OFDCER-ECRS; Klontz, Karl C; FDA Emergency Operations; ORA HQ ERCC; Tarantino, Laura M; Sundlof, Stephen F; Beru, Nega; Assar, Samir  
**Subject:** Re: E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 update.

Kirk,

Thanks for copying me. I am not on top of this investigation. How strong a link is there to a vehicle? Is there a common period of exposure? Is there any information about a common source in the different locations?

Jack Guzewich

Senior Advisor: Environmental Health  
FDA/CFSAN

---

**From:** Smith, Kirk (MDH) <Kirk.Smith@state.mn.us>

**To:** Schwensohn, Colin A. (CDC\*); Robinson, Trisha (MDH) <Trisha.Robinson@state.mn.us>; Von Stein, Diana <DVonStein@idph.state.ia.us>; Leschinsky, Dennis <Dennis.Leschinsky@nebraska.gov>; Bergmire-sweat, David <david.bergmire-sweat@dhhs.nc.gov>; Cronquist, Alicia (CDC state.co.us) <alicia.cronquist@state.co.us>; Phan, Quyen <Quyen.Phan@ct.gov>; David.Bergmire-Sweat@ncmail.net <David.Bergmire-Sweat@ncmail.net>; joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov <joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov>; jsadlows@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us <jsadlows@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us>

**Cc:** Williams, Ian T. (CDC); Tauxe, Robert V. (CDC); Guzewich, John J

**Sent:** Wed Oct 28 16:58:28 2009

**Subject:** RE: E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 update.

Colin – please share this with the involved FDA staff. I've copied Jack G., but I'm sure there are others this could go to.

I think it is a huge mistake for FDA to drop this, if that is what they are thinking of doing (correct me if I'm wrong, but this is what it sounds like from reading between the lines). Even though this is not an ongoing outbreak, there is always something valuable to learn from each outbreak, even small ones. I don't think that whether or not an outbreak is ongoing should always be the overriding criteria of when to tank an investigation - if we went by that, we would not be worried about investigating the large majority of leafy green outbreaks. Maybe the involved farm is doing some sort of poor agricultural practice, and if not addressed they will cause another outbreak, maybe one that is much bigger. Maybe there's something to learn at the farm that would be of value to the industry, or its regulators.

It's not like we don't have much to go on and are chasing tenuous leads. It would not take all that much effort to do tracebacks of the leafy greens from the two multiple-case restaurants and figure this one out. It's low hanging fruit.

FDA has made alot of public statements about being so much more proactive and aggressive about improving food safety (rah, rah). But the proof is in the pudding. Outbreak investigations are disproportionately important in assessing food safety in this country, and that is largely independent of whether or not a particular outbreak is still ongoing when it is solved. If FDA won't fully engage and work backwards from 2 restaurants on a rock solid lead, then all of their claims about making things better are all so much talk.

But most or all of this can be (and should be) done without FDA if they won't do it. It would be necessary to work with state agriculture departments (usually) in the states where the distributors of these restaurants are located. They usually have jurisdiction, or atleast co-jurisdiction, for these facilities. In general I think we in epidemiology need to work more closely with our state ag departments on outbreaks like this. If they can be engaged, these types of investigations can be accomplished quite quickly. Then the California part of CALFERT can be given the info to do the work that needs to be done in California.

Sorry for the rant, but there have been several outbreaks this year that FDA hasn't done what could be done, and that is growing exceedingly frustrating. If FDA is doing what they should be doing on this one, then nevermind – I apologize!

Kirk

Kirk Smith, DVM, MS, PhD  
Supervisor, Foodborne, Vectorborne, and Zoonotic Diseases Unit  
Acute Disease Investigation and Control Section  
Minnesota Department of Health

Phone: 651-201-5240  
Fax: 651-201-5082  
kirk.smith@state.mn.us

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**From:** Schwensohn, Colin A. (CDC/CCID/NCZVED) (CTR) [mailto:hvq4@CDC.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2009 2:00 PM  
**To:** Robinson, Trisha (MDH); Von Stein, Diana; Leschinsky, Dennis; Smith, Kirk (MDH); Bergmire-sweat, David; Cronquist, Alicia (CDC state.co.us); Phan, Quyen; David.Bergmire-Sweat@ncmail.net; joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov; jsadlows@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us  
**Subject:** E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 update.

Hello All,

Just wanted to provide a short update for *E. coli* O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1. There are 10 total cases nationwide with no new uploads to PulseNet since 10/13/09. We have shared available epi information with FDA but with no recent cases, this cluster is less of a priority. I just wanted to thank everyone for providing case information and restaurant invoice data, I realize it was quite a bit of work for what ended up being a smaller cluster. We'll wait to see if there are any additional uploads to PulseNet in the next couple of weeks before closing this cluster investigation but thanks again let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
Colin

**Colin Schwensohn, MPH**  
Surveillance Epidemiologist  
Enteric Diseases Epidemiology Branch  
Division of Foodborne, Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases  
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1600 Clifton Road, MS-A38  
Atlanta, Georgia 30333  
Tel. 404.639.3177 / Fax. 404.639.3535  
hvq4@cdc.gov



## Von Stein, Diana

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**From:** Smith, Kirk (MDH) [Kirk.Smith@state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2009 4:48 PM  
**To:** Williams, Ian (CDC/CCID/NCZVED); Schwensohn, Colin A. (CDC/CCID/NCZVED) (CTR); Robinson, Trisha (MDH); Von Stein, Diana; Leschinsky, Dennis; Bergmire-sweat, David; Cronquist, Alicia (CDC state.co.us); Phan, Quyen; David.Bergmire-Sweat@nccmail.net; joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov; jsadlows@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us  
**Cc:** Tauxe, Robert V. (CDC/CCID/NCZVED); Guzewich, John J; Potter, Morris  
**Subject:** RE: E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 update.

To be frank, those are not good reasons. I explained the outbreak being over one, and I'm sure you agree. As for resources, their excuse for the last one was that it was nearing the end of the fiscal year. Well, now it's a new fiscal year, and they still don't have resources? Outbreaks should be a lot higher up on their priority list than they apparently are now. What's really frustrating is that they are spending what has to be hundreds of thousands of dollars on all of these Coordinating Committee and Workgroup meetings designed to come up with tangible products to unveil at the next 50 state meeting to show the public how much more they're doing to improve food safety. Yet there are not resources to do something that could much more directly affect food safety. I find it all kind of hypocritical.

We do need to find solutions, because you're right – this is going to keep happening over and over.

Kirk Smith, DVM, MS, PhD  
Supervisor, Foodborne, Vectorborne, and Zoonotic Diseases Unit  
Acute Disease Investigation and Control Section  
Minnesota Department of Health  
Phone: 651-201-5240  
Fax: 651-201-5082  
kirk.smith@state.mn.us

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**From:** Williams, Ian (CDC/CCID/NCZVED) [mailto:iaw3@cdc.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2009 4:25 PM  
**To:** Smith, Kirk (MDH); Schwensohn, Colin A. (CDC/CCID/NCZVED) (CTR); Robinson, Trisha (MDH); Von Stein, Diana; Leschinsky, Dennis; Bergmire-sweat, David; Cronquist, Alicia (CDC state.co.us); Phan, Quyen; David.Bergmire-Sweat@nccmail.net; joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov; jsadlows@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us  
**Cc:** Tauxe, Robert V. (CDC/CCID/NCZVED); Guzewich, John J; Potter, Morris  
**Subject:** RE: E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 update.

Kirk,

My understanding from talking to FDA is the reason this not being pursued is 1) the outbreak appears over and 2) limited resources. This is the third such cluster this fall where we have attempted an "epi-driven traceback" (all possibly be associated with leafy greens). There have some important issues relating to roles/responsibilities and resources identified in all three of these. We need to try and find solutions to these issues as I having a feeling will will be doing more and more of these types of investigations in the future. I totally agree with you about engaging not only the Federal partners, but State Public Health and Agriculture/Food Protection in these discussions.

Ian

-----  
Ian Williams, PhD, MS  
Acting Chief, Outbreak Response and Prevention Branch

## Von Stein, Diana

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**From:** Guzewich, John J [John.Guzewich@fda.hhs.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 05, 2010 4:25 PM  
**To:** Von Stein, Diana  
**Subject:** RE: E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 update.

The investigation fizzled out. FDA did not receive enough information to satisfy us that lettuce was the likely vehicle.

Jack Guzewich  
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OFDCER  
FDA/CFSAN  
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College Park, Maryland 20740  
USA  
Phone 301-436-1608  
Fax 301-436-2605  
e-mail john.guzewich@fda.hhs.gov

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**From:** Von Stein, Diana [mailto:DVonStei@idph.state.ia.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 05, 2010 12:17 PM  
**To:** Guzewich, John J  
**Subject:** RE: E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 update.

Hi Jack,

Do you know what ever happened with this investigation? I have not heard any more about it since late November. Iowa has not had anymore cases, but I was just curious if a hypothesis was ever made.

Thanks.

Diana Von Stein

---

**From:** Guzewich, John J [mailto:John.Guzewich@fda.hhs.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2009 4:47 PM  
**To:** kirk.smith@state.mn.us; Schwensohn, Colin A. (CDC\*); Trisha.Robinson@state.mn.us; Von Stein, Diana; Dennis.Leschinsky@nebraska.gov; david.bergmire-sweat@dhhs.nc.gov; alicia.cronquist@state.co.us; Quyen.Phan@ct.gov; David.Bergmire-Sweat@ncmail.net; joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov; jsadlows@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us  
**Cc:** Williams, Ian T. (CDC); Tauxe, Robert V. (CDC); CFSAN-OFDCER-ECRS; Klontz, Karl C; FDA Emergency Operations; ORA HQ ERCG; Tarantino, Laura M; Sundlof, Stephen F; Beru, Nega; Assar, Samir  
**Subject:** Re: E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 update.

Thanks,

Let me look into the reasons we are not investigating further and I will get back to you.

Jack Guzewich  
Senior Advisor: Environmental Health  
FDA/CFSAN

---

**From:** Smith, Kirk (MDH) <Kirk.Smith@state.mn.us>  
**To:** Guzewich, John J; Schwensohn, Colin A. (CDC\*); Robinson, Trisha (MDH) <Trisha.Robinson@state.mn.us>; DVonStei@idph.state.ia.us <DVonStei@idph.state.ia.us>; Dennis.Leschinsky@nebraska.gov <Dennis.Leschinsky@nebraska.gov>; david.bergmire-sweat@dhhs.nc.gov <david.bergmire-sweat@dhhs.nc.gov>; alicia.cronquist@state.co.us <alicia.cronquist@state.co.us>; Quyen.Phan@ct.gov

<Quyen.Phan@ct.gov>; David.Bergmire-Sweat@ncmail.net <David.Bergmire-Sweat@ncmail.net>; joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov <joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov>; jsadlows@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us <jsadlows@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us>

**Cc:** Williams, Ian T. (CDC); Tauxe, Robert V. (CDC); CFSAN-OFDCER-ECRS; Klontz, Karl C; FDA Emergency Operations; ORA HQ ERCG; Tarantino, Laura M; Sundlof, Stephen F; Beru, Nega; Assar, Samir

**Sent:** Wed Oct 28 17:27:21 2009

**Subject:** RE: E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 update.

Briefly there are three people (2 Iowa residents and one Minnesota resident) who ate at the same exact Italian restaurant in Omaha, Nebraska on Sep 5. Two Colorado residents ate (independently) at the same Italian restaurant in Pueblo (I think), Colorado on Sep 6. The Nebraska and Colorado restaurants are not part of the same chain. All of the 5 cases had salads, and invoices from the 2 restaurants showed that they both get the same brand of romaine lettuce (Cross Valley Farms). Again, rock solid - could get lots of bang for the buck by following up.

The 5 cases in other states do have leafy green exposures in restaurants as well.

Colin could provide more detail.

Kirk Smith, DVM, MS, PhD  
Supervisor, Foodborne, Vectorborne, and Zoonotic Diseases Unit  
Acute Disease Investigation and Control Section  
Minnesota Department of Health  
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Fax: 651-201-5082  
kirk.smith@state.mn.us

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**From:** Guzewich, John J [mailto:John.Guzewich@fda.hhs.gov]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2009 4:14 PM

**To:** Smith, Kirk (MDH); Schwensohn, Colin A. (CDC\*); Robinson, Trisha (MDH); DVonStei@idph.state.ia.us; Dennis.Leschinsky@nebraska.gov; david.bergmire-sweat@dhhs.nc.gov; alicia.cronquist@state.co.us; Quyen.Phan@ct.gov; David.Bergmire-Sweat@ncmail.net; joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov; jsadlows@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us

**Cc:** Williams, Ian T. (CDC); Tauxe, Robert V. (CDC); CFSAN-OFDCER-ECRS; Klontz, Karl C; FDA Emergency Operations; ORA HQ ERCG; Tarantino, Laura M; Sundlof, Stephen F; Beru, Nega; Assar, Samir

**Subject:** Re: E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 update.

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Jack Guzewich

Senior Advisor: Environmental Health  
FDA/CFSAN

---

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**To:** Schwensohn, Colin A. (CDC\*); Robinson, Trisha (MDH) <Trisha.Robinson@state.mn.us>; Von Stein, Diana <DVonStei@idph.state.ia.us>; Leschinsky, Dennis <Dennis.Leschinsky@nebraska.gov>; Bergmire-sweat, David <david.bergmire-sweat@dhhs.nc.gov>; Cronquist, Alicia (CDC state.co.us) <alicia.cronquist@state.co.us>; Phan, Quyen <Quyen.Phan@ct.gov>; David.Bergmire-Sweat@ncmail.net <David.Bergmire-Sweat@ncmail.net>; joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov <joann.rudroff@dhss.mo.gov>; jsadlows@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us <jsadlows@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us>

**Cc:** Williams, Ian T. (CDC); Tauxe, Robert V. (CDC); Guzewich, John J

**Sent:** Wed Oct 28 16:58:28 2009

**Subject:** RE: E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 update.