

Date: April 30, 2010

To: File, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program

From: Jennifer Sadlowski, CDPHE Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program
(Contact: Alicia Cronquist – alicia.cronquist@state.co.us, (303)-692-2629)

Subject: Multi-state *E. coli* O157:H7 09-BS / 04G Outbreak (outbreak 2009-00-011)

Multi-county: Jefferson & Pueblo Counties

Multi-state: Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and North Carolina

In mid-September 2009 the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) identified two *E. coli* O157:H7 cases that were matched by PFGE pattern. Both cases were children with onset on 9/8/2009. One was from Jefferson County and the other from Pueblo County. CDPHE collected routine STEC O157/non-O157 case investigation forms from the local county health departments and reviewed them for similarities in exposures. Both cases reported attending the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo, Colorado prior to onset. The complete food history from one case was still pending return phone calls from one of the case's parents. Counties were asked to re-interview cases asking them more detailed questions about activities surrounding their attendance at the Colorado State Fair. In addition, CDPHE actively solicited case investigation forms from several other STEC cases where molecular subtyping was pending.

While data collection on State Fair exposures was in progress, the Minnesota Department of Health notified CDPHE that Minnesota had 1 *E. coli* O157:H7 case that was matched by PFGE pattern to the 2 Colorado cases and identified through PulseNet. The Minnesota case had traveled to Colorado and Nebraska in the week prior to onset, but did not have any apparent exposures in common with the other two Colorado cases. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and other states (CT, IA, MN, MO, & NC) became involved as new cases appeared in their states.

A case was defined as a person with *E. coli* O157:H7 isolated from any site with Colorado PFGE pattern 09BS 4G since September 1, 2009. The other states involved also interviewed their cases and evaluated them for common exposures. CDC, FDA and the states involved had weekly conference calls to update everyone on the progress occurring in each state.

Cases in Minnesota and Iowa ate at a common Italian restaurant in Omaha, NE on 9/5/2009. The North Carolina case also ate at an Italian style restaurant. Once the complete food history was obtained from the parent of the second Colorado case, we noted that both Colorado cases reported eating at the same Italian style restaurant on the

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CC: "Nguyen, Thai-An (CDC/CCID/NCZVED)" <ten9@CDC.GOV>, "Williams, Ian (CDC/...
Date: 10/10/2009 11:46 AM
Subject: E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 Conference Call

Hi Jen,

Just wanted to provide an update on E. coli cluster 0910MLEXH-1. On Friday, CDC along with MN, NE, IA, NC and CT had an impromptu conference call to discuss very compelling epi links between MN and IA cases, two IA cases and one MN case report traveling to Omaha, NE and eating at Spezia Italian restaurant on the same day (9/5/09). Also, the other Minnesota case traveled to CO and ate at a Mexican style restaurant and CT and NC cases also report eating at Mexican style restaurant in the week prior to illness onset. The plan moving forward is to re-interview cases that ate at Spetzi's and using their menu, collect as much detail as possible about their meal and also ask for invoice data from the restaurant. NE is collecting that data for Spetzi's and CT and NC will look into their Mexican restaurant link. We were hoping that Colorado would be able to collect similar meal information from cases and invoice data for the Italian restaurant in CO to compare distributors and products. Folks here at CDC are out of the office Monday, so we were planning a conference call again for Tuesday at 2pm EDT but feel free to share information with the group via email prior to that.

Thanks,
Colin

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Cc: Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/CCID/NCZVED); Nguyen, Thai-An
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Subject: RE: E. coli O157:H7 cluster 0910MLEXH-1 Conference Call

Hi-