



NEWS RELEASE

Date: August 11, 2017

Contact: Diana Williams
697-4611 (Cell)
diana.williams@mesacounty.us

MCPH investigates Mesa County *E. coli* outbreak

At least eight people are sick with *Shiga toxin-producing E. coli* after spending time at the Mesa County Fair, which ran from July 25 to July 29 in Grand Junction.

Mesa County Public Health officials have been working with representatives from the Mesa County Fair, and those who became sick to find the source of the illness. *Shiga toxin-producing E. coli* is common in cattle, sheep, and goats. It can be contracted through direct contact with these animals, or contact with things in close proximity to the animals that may have been cross contaminated. Mesa County Public Health officials have also been in close communication with child care providers and health care providers to determine the magnitude of the outbreak, and to prevent further spread of the illness.

People can become sick between two and 10 days after being infected with *Shiga toxin-producing E. coli*. The fair ended more than 10 days ago. **If you or a family member aren't currently sick with stomach cramps, diarrhea or vomiting, it's likely you won't become ill.**

In most cases, the illness is mild and lasts one to three days. Symptoms vary for each person but often include very bad stomach cramps, diarrhea and vomiting.

"Outbreaks are always a possibility at fairs. We worked closely with Mesa County fair officials to put preventive measures in place prior to the start of the event. Otherwise, this could have been much worse," said Executive Director Jeff Kuhr.

Prevent spreading *E. coli* to others:

- **Practice proper hygiene, especially good handwashing.**
- Wash your hands thoroughly after using the bathroom and changing diapers.
- Wash your hands thoroughly before and after preparing or eating food.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after contact with animals or their environments (at farms, petting zoos, fairs, even your own backyard).
- Wash your hands thoroughly before preparing and feeding bottles or foods to an infant or toddler, before touching an infant or toddler's mouth and before touching pacifiers or other things that go into an infant or toddler's mouth.
- Keep all objects that enter infants' and toddlers' mouths (such as pacifiers and teethingers) clean.



www.facebook.com/mesacountyhealthdepartmen

Working Together for a Healthy Community



@WeAreHealthyMC



MESA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Working Together for a Healthy Community

- If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (check the product label to be sure).
 - These alcohol-based products can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in some situations, but they are not a substitute for washing with soap and running water.

For more information, call or text Diana Williams at (970) 697-4611 or visit health.mesacounty.us.



www.facebook.com/mesacountyhealthdepartmen

Working Together for a Healthy Community



@WeAreHealthyMC