



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **KCHD and East Tennessee Regional Office Issue Alert for Consuming Raw Milk**

Last week the Knox County Health Department and the East Tennessee Regional Office of the Tennessee Department of Health began investigating a cluster of E. coli illnesses associated with raw milk consumption. Since that time additional cases have been identified. Three of these cases have confirmed E. coli 0157 infection.

All cases are known to have obtained raw milk from a local cow-share dairy. Out of an abundance of caution at this time, we advise people not to consume raw milk or dairy products from McBee Dairy Farm in Mascot, TN due to possible contamination with E. coli 0157. We also recommend consumers dispose of any raw milk or dairy products they may currently have from McBee Dairy Farm.

Raw milk and other unpasteurized dairy products can contain harmful bacteria, such as E. coli. These bacteria can cause severe diarrhea and even life-threatening complications. While it is possible to get sick from many other foods, raw milk is one of the riskiest. Infants and young children are among those with the greatest risk of illness from raw milk.

If you or anyone in your household has consumed raw milk and is experiencing severe stomach cramps, diarrhea (often bloody) and vomiting, please seek medical attention.