



## **Outbreak of *E. coli* Linked to Jimmy John's**

**February 27, 2020** - The Kane County Health Department is advising that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has reported a multistate outbreak of *E. coli* O103. The outbreak has been identified as possibly linked to clover sprouts served at Jimmy John's restaurants. The investigation is ongoing to determine whether contaminated sprouts were served at other restaurants or retailers. IDPH has identified six cases that are a match to a multistate outbreak strain of *E. coli* O103.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently reporting fourteen cases from five states, including Illinois. The cases included in this outbreak are related to an outbreak that was linked to sprouts served at Jimmy John's in December 2019. In response, Jimmy John's Franchise, LLC instructed stores to remove sprouts from their stores nationwide on February 22, 2020. IDPH and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are working to identify where the sprouts were distributed.

A STEC (Shiga Toxin-producing *E. coli*) infection can cause abdominal cramps and severe diarrhea, which can be bloody. The average incubation period is one to ten days. Symptoms can last about five to seven days. In children and older adults, a STEC infection can lead to uremia, which is acute kidney failure, and hemolytic anemia, which is the destruction of red blood cells. Most people who have healthy immune systems will recover without treatment.

(more)

## **Outbreak of E. coli Linked to Jimmy John's – page 2**

For questions or additional information about the outbreak, please contact the IDPH Communicable Disease Control Section at 217-782-2016.

For more information, consult the CDC Outbreak Posting at [CDC.gov/ecoli/2020/o103h2-02-20/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2020/o103h2-02-20/index.html)

The Kane County Health Department has an abundance of information on food safety online at [KaneHealth.com/Pages/Food-Safety.aspx](https://www.kanehealth.com/Pages/Food-Safety.aspx).

###

Contact: Susan Stack 630-444-3098

[KaneHealth.com](https://www.kanehealth.com)