



THE GREAT LAKES BORDER HEALTH INITIATIVE

Indiana • Michigan • Minnesota • New York • Ohio • Ontario • Pennsylvania • Wisconsin

www.michigan.gov/borderhealth

Case Study: *Campylobacter* Outbreak and Raw Milk, March 2010

Great Lakes Border Health Initiative (GLBHI) partners were involved in sharing information regarding a *Campylobacter* outbreak linked to the consumption of raw milk products, during March 2010. A summary of the assistance provided by GLBHI staff and collaborators is provided below, along with the official press release regarding the outbreak. Note that it is illegal to sell raw milk in Michigan.

March 18, 2010

- ◆ Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) epidemiologists work to confirm illnesses due to *Campylobacter*, linked to the consumption of raw milk products obtained from a farm cooperative located in Southwest Michigan that obtained raw milk product from a dairy farm in Middlebury, Indiana.
- ◆ Late afternoon, MDCH epidemiologists speak with Diane Krueger, GLBHI Project Coordinator for Michigan, and ask her if she can assist in notifying key GLBHI partners along the southern border of Michigan, as well as the State of Indiana. They ask her to expect the formal press write-up the following day, along with permission to release it.

March 19, 2010

- ◆ MDCH epidemiologists share press release with GLBHI staff in Michigan with permission to distribute to partners.
- ◆ The press release is forwarded to Michigan regional epidemiologists whose territories cover the southern border of Michigan, informing them of a public health alert regarding illness from *Campylobacter* infections among people who reported consuming raw milk products obtained from farms in Michigan and Indiana. The regional epidemiologists were asked to share the news release with their local health department contacts.
- ◆ GLBHI staff also provide the press release to the GLBHI State Leads for Indiana, Pam Pontones and Tom Duszynski, asking them to share the news release with the appropriate local health department contacts.
- ◆ Because Illinois is not a GLBHI state, but may have had cooperatives that also took in and distributed raw milk from the Indiana dairy, GLBHI State Leads for Indiana share the press release with Illinois contacts.



THE GREAT LAKES BORDER HEALTH INITIATIVE

Indiana • Michigan • Minnesota • New York • Ohio • Ontario • Pennsylvania • Wisconsin

www.michigan.gov/borderhealth

March 22, 2010

- ◆ Press release is provided to the GLBHI State Leads for Ohio, Kim Machesky and Mary Diorio, asking them to share the news release with the appropriate local health department contacts.

March 23, 2010

- ◆ Ohio leads send an alert to the Ohio local health departments to increase index of suspicion around any raw milk-associated campylobacteriosis cases that were reported.

The press release from the Michigan Department of Community Health, dated March 19, 2010, is provided below.

Summary by:

Diane M. Krueger, Ph.D.

EWIDS/GLBHI Project Coordinator

Communicable Disease Division, Michigan Department of Community Health



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 19, 2010

CONTACT: James McCurtis, Jr.
(517) 241-2112

***Campylobacter* Outbreak in Michigan Linked to Consumption of Raw Milk Products**

LANSING - The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is issuing a public health alert regarding illness from *Campylobacter* infections among people who have reported consuming raw milk products obtained from the Family Farms Cooperative in Vandalia, Michigan. Family Farms Cooperative operates a cow share program where members own part of a cow and in return receive raw dairy products. The milk for the Family Farm Cooperative cow share program comes from a dairy farm in Indiana. The plastic containers of raw milk have the following information on a green and white cap: "FOREST GROVE DAIRY, MIDDLEBURY, INDIANA; RAW COW'S MILK, WARNING-NOT PASTEURIZED, 128 FL OZ." Cow share programs are not inspected or regulated under Michigan law. These products are not available at retail stores.

A total of eight confirmed *Campylobacter* cases have been reported in Macomb, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties. No hospitalizations have been reported to date. Ages of the ill range from 2 to 51 years old and the majority are young children under four years old with onset of illness beginning in early March. The outbreak investigation is ongoing with efforts to determine how widely these unregulated products are being distributed.

"Raw or unpasteurized milk and dairy products may carry many types of disease-causing germs such as *Campylobacter*, *Salmonella* and *E. Coli*," said Dr. Gregory Holzman, chief medical executive for MDCH. "People need to be aware that raw milk and raw dairy products have not been heat treated or pasteurized to kill germs."

Campylobacter is a bacterial illness causing diarrhea (often bloody), fever, and abdominal cramps 2-5 days after exposure. Illness may persist for 1-2 weeks. Some people require treatment. The elderly, infants, and those with weak immune systems are more likely to have a severe or enduring illness. Persons who are ill with these symptoms and have consumed raw milk recently should consult with their medical provider and ask about being tested for *Campylobacter* infection. *Campylobacter* illness is a reportable communicable disease in Michigan.

###