

This is an Official CDC HAN Info
Service Message
Forwarded by the Montana State
DPHHS HAN System

Distributed via the DPHHS Health Alert Network (HAN) System
Friday, September 15, 2006 14:30 MT (2:30 PM MST)

CDC issued a health alert on September 14, 2006 regarding a multi-state outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 infections. The health alert identified 50 cases in 8 states, including CT, ID, IN, MI, OR, NM, UT and WI. Preliminary findings from case interviews indicate that pre-packaged spinach is the most likely source. The FDA advises that consumers not eat bagged spinach at this time. **At this point in time, MTDPHHS does not have any evidence that there are any cases in Montana that match the PFGE pattern being seeing by the CDC in this outbreak.** Patients presenting with diarrhea that is bloody and accompanied by abdominal cramps should be evaluated for E. coli O157. Cases should be reported rapidly to local and state public health departments and isolates should be forwarded to the Montana Public Health Laboratory for rapid PFGE analysis. More information about E. coli O157 infection can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_ecoli.htm.

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The goal of Montana's Health Alert Network is to transmit information to local public health authorities as quickly as possible, and assign a suitable priority to the message that is sensitive to the impact of a health-related event providing information of immediate of utility relative to the public health and safety of Montanans. For questions or comments relative to Montana's HAN system you may contact the Montana State HAN Coordinator Gerry Wheat at <<mailto:gwheat@mt.gov>>

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
- Info Service Message:** provides general information regarding a situation or opportunity; does not typically require immediate action.

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This message has been sent under blind carbon copy (bcc) to suppress the display of a large number of e-mail addresses. You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification data base. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use please notify us as soon as possible by e-mail at hhshan@mt.gov <<mailto:hhshan@mt.gov>>

