

**Update (7-28-17, 1pm):** The investigation of the *E. coli* outbreak in the Hildale/Colorado City area is drawing to a close. It has been determined that the likely source of the disease was infected animals, followed by person-to-person contact. Several livestock tested positive for the *E. coli* strain involved in this outbreak. Their owners have been contacted and given guidance to prevent further spread. Tests on water systems, springs, ground beef, produce, and dairy products were negative.

There have been no new confirmed cases linked to this outbreak since July 9<sup>th</sup>, although public health agencies will continue to monitor disease activity in the community.

Disease outbreaks are unpredictable and can occur in any community. This effort has involved the Southwest Utah Public Health Department, Mohave County Department of Public Health, Utah Department of Health, Arizona Department of Health Services, and the CDC. Hundreds of samples were tested and many people were interviewed. We appreciate the cooperation of the people of Hildale, Colorado City, and Centennial Park with the investigation and their efforts to protect against future outbreaks.

As a reminder, *E. coli* are common bacteria which can be spread to people when tiny pieces of feces enter the mouth through unwashed hands; contaminated soil, water, and food. Undercooked ground beef and unpasteurized dairy products are especially high risk. Infected animals and manure are also sources of infection. Most types of *E. coli* are harmless, but some strains are harmful to humans, such as the strain found in this outbreak (*E. coli* O157:H7).

Health officials continue to encourage following the practices listed below to help prevent infection from *E. coli* and other diseases:

- Keep sick animals separated from people and consider consulting a veterinarian
- Wash your hands with warm, soapy water
  - After contact with animals or exposure to animal feces
  - Before and after preparing or eating food
  - After using the bathroom and changing diapers
  - Before touching anything that enters an infant's mouth
- Wash produce thoroughly
- Keep raw food separate from cooked food
- Carefully clean all surfaces and objects that have touched raw meat
- Cook meats thoroughly. Ground beef should be cooked to an internal temperature of 160 degrees (use a meat thermometer)

For more information about *E. coli* and preventing infection, visit:

[cdc.gov/ecoli/general](http://cdc.gov/ecoli/general)  
[swuhealth.org/ecoli/](http://swuhealth.org/ecoli/)