

***Campylobacter coli* Infections Associated with Raw Milk Served at a Farm**

July

Todd County

Routine surveillance interviews of two cases of *Campylobacter coli* infection conducted by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in late July 2011 revealed that both cases had consumed raw milk at a farm near Grey Eagle, Minnesota in the week prior to illness onset.

All *Campylobacter* cases reported to MDH are interviewed about food consumption and other exposures as part of foodborne disease surveillance in Minnesota. Epidemiologists reviewed the information gathered during the interviews of *C. coli* cases to identify potential cases associated with raw milk obtained at the Grey Eagle farm.

Three cases were identified. Repeat interviews with the cases confirmed that they had consumed raw milk from the same private farm near Grey Eagle in the week prior to illness onset while visiting an extended relative. Reported consumption dates for the cases were July 6 and 7. While the cases were

present on the dairy farm, none of them reported contact with the cattle. Two additional family members visited the farm that did not become sick; these individuals did not report drinking raw milk; however, they did report direct contact with the cattle.

All cases were adults. All three cases reported diarrhea, one (33%) reported vomiting, one (33%) reported cramps, and one (33%) reported fever. The two cases with known exposure dates both reported incubation periods of 2 days. Cases had illness durations of 9 and 10 days, respectively for the two cases who had recovered at the time of interview. Two (67%) cases were hospitalized, for 3 and 4 days, respectively. All three cases had a stool specimen test positive for *Campylobacter coli*; all isolates were indistinguishable by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis. Additionally, all isolates were resistant to nalidixic acid.

This was an outbreak of campylobacteriosis associated with raw milk consumption at a private farm. Raw milk is a well-established vehicle of campylobacteriosis.