Campylobacter jejuni Infections Associated with Masonry Work on a Dairy Farm

July Stearns County

Routine surveillance interviews of two *Campylobacter jejuni* cases conducted by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in late July and early August 2011 revealed that both cases had performed masonry work at the same dairy farm in Farming Township, Minnesota.

All *Campylobacter* cases reported to MDH are interviewed about occupational exposures as part of foodborne disease surveillance in Minnesota. Epidemiologists reviewed the information gathered during the interviews of the *C. jejuni* cases to identify other potential cases associated with the dairy farm.

Cases were defined as persons who had *C. jejuni* isolated from stool or who had diarrhea (≥3 loose stools in a 24-hour period) lasting 3 or more days and who reported working at the Farming Township dairy farm in the week prior to onset of symptoms.

Only the two original cases were identified. Both cases reported diarrhea and fever. Neither case reported cramps, vomiting, or blood in their stools. The incubation period could not be calculated, as cases were exposed on more than one occasion. The median duration of illness was 11.5 days (range, 9 to 14 days). Both cases had a stool specimen test positive for *Campylobacter jejuni*; both isolates were indistinguishable by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE).

Cases did not report any common exposures other than working together performing masonry work at the dairy farm. Neither case reported any direct contact with the animals, but reported dairy cattle being present.

This was an outbreak of *Campylobacter jejuni* infections associated with performing masonry work at a dairy farm. Cattle and their environment are well-established vehicles of campylobacteriosis, and likely were the source of this outbreak.