



West Michigan illnesses linked to Detroit meat packing company's ground beef recall

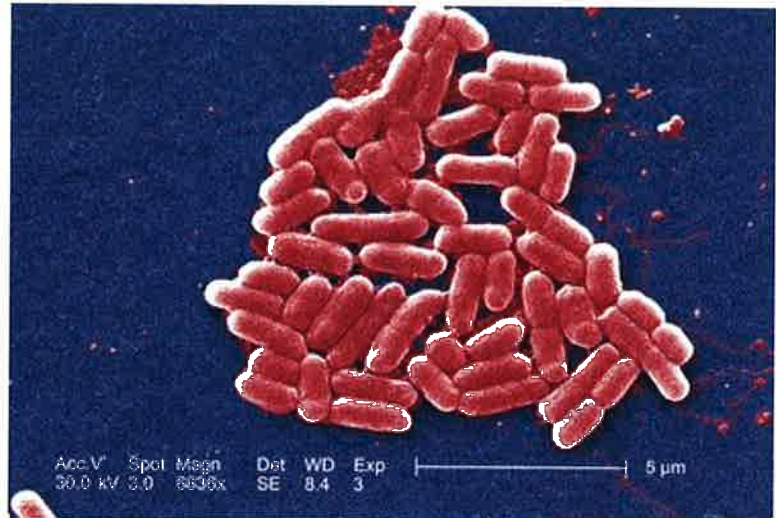
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GRAND RAPIDS, MI - An investigation into an outbreak of **E. coli that sickened five Michigan residents**, including two in West Michigan, has led to a recall of ground beef by a Detroit meat packing company.

Wolverine Packing Company is recalling 1.8 million pounds of ground beef products that may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7, a deadly strain of bacteria, according to an announcement made Monday, May 19, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



This colorized scanning electron micrograph depicts a number of Escherichia coli bacteria of the strain O157:H7. This strain of E. coli is an emerging cause of foodborne illness.

Janice Haney Carr, CDC

The recall affects ground beef distributed for restaurant use.

Eleven illnesses in four states have been linked to contaminated meat, the USDA said.

In Michigan, five residents became ill after eating undercooked hamburger in restaurants. A Kent County resident and an Ottawa County resident were hospitalized with the illness, but health officials say both were recovering last week. No deaths were reported.

Epidemiological and traceback investigations linked the illnesses to ground beef from Wolverine Packing Co.

The recall affects products shipped to distributors for restaurant use in Michigan, Massachusetts, Missouri and Ohio. No products were shipped to the national school lunch program or the Department of Defense, the USDA said.

The products subject to recall bear the establishment number "EST. 2574B" and will have a production date code in the format "Packing Nos: MM DD 14" between "03 31 14" and "04 18 14".

Michigan Department of Community Health reports that no new cases have been reported since the five

patients were diagnosed between April 22 and May 1.

No deaths were reported, but the Shiga-toxin producing E. coli 1057 can cause life-threatening illness, particularly in children, the elderly and immune-compromised patients. It can cause bloody diarrhea and severe abdominal cramps three to four days after exposure. The incubation range is two to 10 days.

Here is a link to the **full list of products recalled**.

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