

- **Kenosha County investigates salmonella outbreak**

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- **KENOSHA, Wis.** —Kenosha County health officials tell WISN 12 News they are investigating an outbreak of salmonella.

More than 30 people have become ill from suspected salmonella, but a few cases of the food-borne illness have been confirmed, said Mark Melotick, the environmental manager for the Kenosha County Health Department. All of the families WISN 12 News reporter Christina Palladino spoke with said they had one thing in common -- they all ate meat from the same store.

Melotik said the focus is on a specific store, Los Corrales, but it is not yet known whether the contamination happened at the store or with the supplier. Cynthia Johnson, director of Kenosha County Health Services, said the meat and food preparation areas are closed while the investigation continues, but the remainder of the business remains open.

Amanda Acosta and her boyfriend, Nick Jacquest, said they ordered pork carnitas from Los Corrales supermarket on May 10. The next day, they were all extremely ill. "We all had fevers and it lasted all week, and then we went to the hospital with the kids. It just got pretty bad," Jacquest said. Acosta and her boyfriend both had to take a week off from work to care for their sick kids, who were violently throwing up and had diarrhea. "It's scary because so many things could happen to small children from this," Acosta said. Palladino went inside the store Monday night and said the meat counter was completely empty. Kenosha resident Michael Brown told her he also had the pork carnitas on May 10 with his family. They all got sick the next day. He was deathly ill for a week. "I only have one kidney, and they said it was elevated or something. A very dangerous high they said," Brown said. Both families said they've been shopping at the grocery store for years and have never been sick.

The Kenosha County Health Department continues to investigate the source of the salmonella. Melotik said they are working with surrounding counties to determine if more people may have been affected by illness. The state health department said it is working with the Kenosha County Division of Health to investigate the outbreak.

Most people experience symptoms eight to 72 hours after contaminated food is ingested. Symptoms of salmonella include diarrhea, fever and cramps. The illness usually lasts four to seven days.

SOURCE: <http://www.wisn.com/news/kenosha-county-investigating-salmonella-outbreak/33089572>