

Onions, tomatoes, raw turkey sickened Boise Co-Op customers

Andrea Lutz, KTVB 4:44 p.m. MDT June 16, 2015

BOISE — Central District Health Department officials are busy fielding calls from those sickened with salmonella from the Boise Co-Op's deli. CDHD Public Information Officer Christine Myron said Tuesday that the department has 60 confirmed cases of salmonella, but anticipate in all that 75 to 100 cases will be reported to CDHD.

The reports are even coming from out of state, because Myron said the Boise Airport sells Boise Co-Op deli products at airport terminal kiosks. To help field the calls, volunteers are working a hotline.

"We are still fielding calls, and that really prompted us to start an information line where you can call and get general information on where things are at, as well as report any illness over the phone," said Myron.

Those with the Boise Co-Op learned earlier in the week the source of the bacteria. The contaminated items were found in onions, tomatoes and raw turkey in the store's deli section, and not in the produce aisle.

"We sent inspectors, they spent about two days working with the Co-Op kind of going from top to bottom, kind of looking at all of their deli practices in terms of how do they receive food how do they prepare it how do they store it," explained Myron.

But Myron said it doesn't stop there, because they want to hear from members of the public who are a part of what is called "high risk" groups. "We are really interested in talking to someone who works in food service or health care or who works in child care - if they have had symptoms of salmonella they are at risk for spreading it," said Myron.

Central District Health continues to work with the members of the Boise Co-Op to get the contamination cleared and cleaned so they can reopen their deli services.

Myron said they hope to meet again Wednesday. "We want to be seen as a source, and so it's important that we have those good working relationships with food establishments as we do with the Co-Op," Myron said.

If you think you may have been sickened by Salmonella at the Boise Co-Op or have questions, you can call the hotline at 208-321-2222.

Health officials believe the sickness occurred from June 1 to June 10.

The Boise Co-Op did not return calls Tuesday for comment.

SOURCE: <http://www.ktvb.com/story/news/health/2015/06/16/onion-tomatoes-raw-turkey-sickened-patrons-at-boise-co-op/28828751/>