

Outbreak Investigation of E. coli O157:H7: McDonald's Quarter Pounders (October 2024)

Taylor Farms recalls certain yellow onions sent to food service/restaurants. Investigators continue working to confirm the source of the outbreak.

Product

A specific ingredient has not yet been confirmed as the source of the outbreak, but most sick people report eating McDonald's Quarter Pounder burgers. Investigators are working to determine if the slivered onions or beef patties on Quarter Pounder burgers are the likely source of contamination. McDonald's has temporarily stopped using Quarter Pounder slivered onions and beef patties in affected states. Diced onions and other types of beef patties used at McDonald's have not been implicated in this outbreak. Additionally, Taylor Farms has initiated a voluntary recall of some onions sent to food service customers. Customers who are impacted have been contacted directly.

Symptoms of [E. coli](#)

Symptoms begin anywhere from a few days after consuming contaminated food or up to nine days later. Symptoms include severe stomach cramps, diarrhea, fever, nausea, and/or vomiting. Some infections can cause severe bloody diarrhea and lead to life-threatening conditions, such as a type of kidney failure called hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), or the development of high blood pressure, chronic kidney disease, and neurologic problems.

Stores Affected

McDonald's stores in Colorado, Kansas, Utah, Wyoming, and portions of Idaho, Iowa, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, and Oklahoma have temporarily stopped using Quarter Pounder slivered onions and beef patties.

At this time, FDA is not aware of any cases or affected product outside of the United States.

Status

Ongoing; updates will be provided as they become available.

Recommendation

- Consumers who have already eaten at McDonald's and have symptoms of *E. coli* infection should contact their health care provider to report their symptoms and receive care immediately.
- McDonald's stores in affected states have temporarily stopped using Quarter Pounder slivered onions and beef patties. Diced onions and other types of beef patties used at McDonald's have not been implicated in this outbreak.
- Food service customers should not eat, sell, or serve Taylor Farms recalled yellow onions and should follow [FDA's safe handling and cleaning advice](#) and use extra care in cleaning and sanitizing any surfaces and containers that may have come in contact with recalled

product to reduce the risk of cross-contamination. Customers should also ensure that they did not freeze recalled onions or foods containing recalled onions.

Current Update

October 25, 2024

The FDA, USDA FSIS, CDC, and state partners continue to work quickly and collaboratively to investigate and identify the source of illnesses linked to *E. coli* contamination in McDonald's Quarter Pounders.

As of October 24, 75 people infected with the outbreak strain of *E. coli* O157:H7 have been reported from 13 states. Illnesses started on dates ranging from Sept 27, 2024, to October 10, 2024. Of 61 people with information available, 22 have been hospitalized, and 2 people developed hemolytic uremic syndrome, a serious condition that can cause kidney failure. One death has been reported from an older adult in Colorado. Of the 42 people interviewed, all 42 (100%) report eating at McDonald's, and 39 people report eating a beef hamburger.

FDA is using all available tools to confirm if onions are the source of this outbreak. This includes working with federal and state partners and the companies involved to collect and evaluate records and distribution information as part of our traceback investigation. FDA and state partners are also collecting onion samples for analysis.

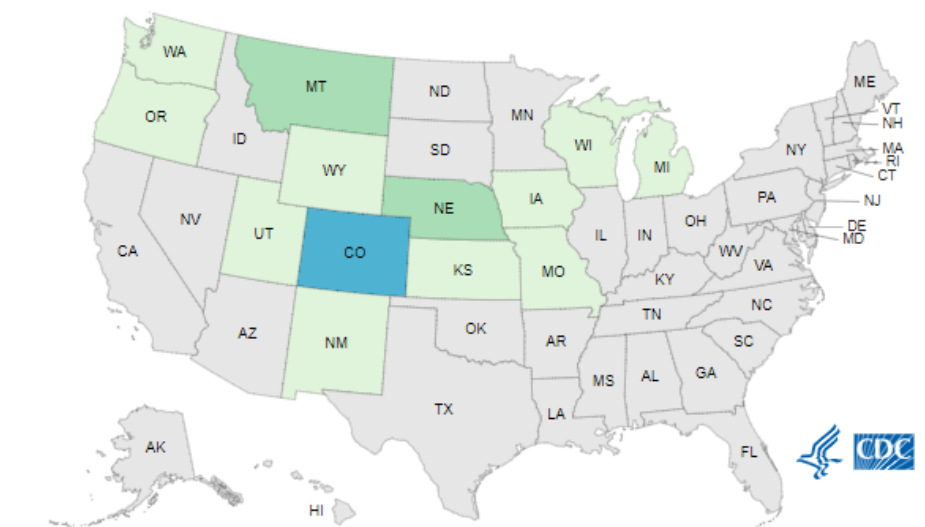
While the investigation is ongoing, Taylor Farms, the supplier of slivered onions for the affected McDonald's locations, has initiated a voluntary recall. Recalled yellow onions were sold to additional food service customers. Customers who received recalled onions have been directly notified of the recall.

FDA is working closely with the implicated firms and will continue to provide updates as they become available, including any additional recalls or notifications that might be needed for recipients of recalled onions.

At this time, FDA is not aware of any cases or affected product outside of the United States.

More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Case Count Map Provided by CDC



Case Count

- Total Illnesses: 75
- Hospitalizations: 22
- Deaths: 1
- Last Illness Onset: October 10, 2024
- States with Cases: CO, IA, KS, MI, MO, MT, NE, NM, OR, UT, WA, WI, and WY

Previous Update

October 22, 2024

The FDA, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with state and local partners, are investigating illnesses in a multistate outbreak of *E. coli* O157:H7 infections. A specific ingredient has not yet been confirmed as the source of the outbreak, but most sick people report eating McDonald's Quarter Pounder burger varieties.

Investigators are working to determine if the slivered onions or beef patties on Quarter Pounder burgers are the likely source of this outbreak.

Preliminary traceback and distribution information reviewed by FDA shows that slivered onions served on Quarter Pounders are a likely source of contamination. FDA is working quickly to confirm that these onions are a source of this outbreak and to determine if these onions were served or sold at other businesses. McDonald's has temporarily stopped using this type of onion in these states. Diced onions used at McDonald's are not implicated in this outbreak.

FSIS is conducting traceback on hamburger patties served at McDonald's in affected states to determine if ground beef is a source of illness. McDonald's has also temporarily stopped selling Quarter Pounder beef patties in affected states, while the investigation is ongoing to determine the source of the outbreak.

This advisory will be updated as additional information becomes available.

Who to Contact

Consumers who have symptoms should contact their health care provider to report their symptoms and receive care.

To report a complaint or adverse event (illness or serious allergic reaction), visit [Industry and Consumer Assistance](#).