

Multistate Outbreak of *E. coli* O157:H7 Infections Linked to Romaine Lettuce

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What's New?

- Twenty-three more ill people from 10 states were added to this investigation since the last update on April 27, 2018. One death was reported from California.
- Three more states have reported ill people: Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Utah.
- The most recent illness started on April 21, 2018. Illnesses that occurred in the last two to three weeks might not yet be reported because of the time between when a person becomes ill with *E. coli* and when the illness is reported to CDC.

Highlights

- Information collected to date indicates that romaine lettuce from the Yuma, Arizona growing region could be contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7 and could make people sick.
 - For the latest information about the traceback investigation, visit the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) website](#).
- **Advice to Consumers:**
 - Do not eat or buy romaine lettuce unless you can confirm it is not from the Yuma, Arizona growing region.
 - Product labels often do not identify growing regions; so, do not eat or buy romaine lettuce if you do not know where it was grown.
 - This advice includes whole heads and hearts of romaine, chopped romaine, baby romaine, organic romaine, and salads and salad mixes containing romaine lettuce. If you do not know if the lettuce in a salad mix is romaine, do not eat it.
- **Advice to Restaurants and Retailers:**
 - Do not serve or sell any romaine lettuce from the Yuma, Arizona growing region. This includes whole heads and hearts of romaine, chopped romaine, baby romaine, organic romaine, and salads and salad mixes containing romaine lettuce.
 - Restaurants and retailers should ask their suppliers about the source of their romaine lettuce.
- CDC, public health and regulatory officials in several states, and the FDA are investigating a multistate outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 (*E. coli* O157:H7) infections.

- 121 people infected with the outbreak strain of *E. coli* O157:H7 have been reported from 25 states.
 - 52 people have been hospitalized, including 14 people who have developed a type of kidney failure called hemolytic uremic syndrome.
 - One death was reported from California.
- This investigation is ongoing, and CDC will provide updates when more information is available.

Case Count Update

Since the last update on April 27, 2018, 23 more ill people were added to this outbreak.

As of May 1, 2018, 121 people infected with the outbreak strain of *E. coli* O157:H7 have been reported from 25 states. A list of the states and the number of cases in each can be found on the [Case Count Map page](#). Illnesses started on dates ranging from [March 13, 2018 to April 21, 2018](#). Ill people range in age from 1 to 88 years, with a median age of 29. Sixty-three percent of ill people are female. Of 102 people with information available, 52 (51%) have been hospitalized, including 14 people who developed hemolytic uremic syndrome, a type of kidney failure. One death was reported from California.

Illnesses that occurred after April 11, 2018, might not yet be reported due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill with *E. coli* and when the illness is reported. This takes an average of [two to three weeks](#).