



October 5, 2007

HEALTH ADVISORY

E. coli O157:H7 infection in Minnesota (#22225)

State health and agriculture officials are investigating four cases of E. coli O157:H7 infection in Minnesota residents associated with eating ground beef patties purchased from Sam's Club stores in late August and September.

Routine monitoring by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) found that the cases of illness were all caused by E. coli O157:H7 with indistinguishable PFGE patterns. All three cases were related to frozen pre-made ground beef patties purchased at Sam's Club stores in the Twin Cities metro area. The people became ill between September 10 and 20 after consuming the meat, which was purchased in early September. The brand name of the implicated ground beef patties was "American Chef's Selection Angus Beef Patties".

All four cases were children. Two of the cases developed hemolytic uremic syndrome and were hospitalized. One case has been discharged and one remains hospitalized. Stores currently involved include Eagan, White Bear Lake and Maple Grove, but others may be involved. This brand of ground beef patties that was purchased on or after Aug. 27 from a Sam's Club store should not be used but should be discarded or returned to the store. People who have developed symptoms of E. coli O157:H7 infection after consuming this product are urged to contact their physician.

MDH will be issuing a news release today.