

Mysterious E. coli outbreak has sickened 72 people in five states, CDC warns

- **A new outbreak of a particularly dangerous strain of E. coli is ongoing in at least five states**
- **The CDC says 72 people are sick in Georgia, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee and Virginia**
- **Health officials have not yet identified the source of the outbreak**
- **Though it is a different strain, the current E. coli outbreak involves a strain that produces Shiga-toxins, which turned the romaine outbreak deadly last year**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and several other U.S. agencies are investigating an E.coli outbreak in five states, the CDC said on Friday.

Per the agency's latest announcement, the bacteria has sickened 72 people across five states in the US.

It is not yet clear what the source of the outbreak is, but it seems to be widespread.

Eight people have been hospitalized and the CDC is warning consumers, restaurants to take precautions to prevent infections while it and other agencies search for the contamination's origin.



A mysterious outbreak of E. coli bacteria (pictured) has sickened 72 people in eight states and eight of them have been hospitalized, the CDC warned Friday

The CDC, the US Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and several states are investigating the outbreak of toxin-producing E.coli O103 infections.

Escherichia coli, or E.coli bacteria, normally lives in the intestines of healthy people and animals.

Although many strains of the bacteria are harmless, certain strains can cause severe abdominal cramps, bloody diarrhea and vomiting.

Georgia, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee and Virginia are the five states that have reported E.coli infections relating to particular strain of the bacteria.

As many as 72 people from these states have reported infections and eight have been hospitalized as of April 4, 2019, the agency said.

No deaths were reported.

The investigation is still going on and the reason for the outbreak is yet to be

identified, the agency said.

This outbreak comes a week after 5,000 lbs of meat were recalled over E. coli fears.

Also last week, the FDA warned that romaine growers failed to prevent last year's deadly E. coli outbreak in an 'epic and tragic' way, and warned that another outbreak is likely this summer.

Last year's romaine outbreak turned deadly because the particular strain of E. coli involved produced Shiga-toxins, which cause much more serious infections.

The mysterious current outbreak involves a different strain of E. coli, but this one, too, produces Shiga-toxins.

State health agencies and hospitals will be on high alert for illnesses related to the outbreak.

To prevent contamination and infections, the CDC is remind the public to make sure to wash their hands well, cook meats thoroughly, keep clean, separate work areas when preparing food, wash fruits and vegetables, avoid raw, unpasteurized dairy products, and stay out of the kitchen when sick.

Source:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-6891703/U-S-CDC-investigates-E-coli-outbreak-states.html>

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