



Cake Batter Investigation Due to E. coli

August 5, 2021 - The Kane County Health Department is advising that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is investigating a multi-state outbreak of E Coli infection linked to raw cake batter.

According to the CDC, as of July 27, 2021, 16 people infected with the outbreak strain of *E. coli* O121 have been reported from 12 states, including 2 cases in Illinois. Illnesses started on dates ranging from February 26, 2021 to June 21, 2021.

Sick people range in age from 2 to 73 years, with a median age of 13, and 100% are female. Of 16 people with information available, 7 have been hospitalized. One person has developed a type of kidney failure called hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), and no deaths have been reported.

The true number of sick people in an outbreak is likely much higher than the number reported, and the outbreak may not be limited to the states with known illnesses. This is because many people recover without medical care and are not tested for *E. coli*. In addition, recent illnesses may not yet be reported as it usually takes 3 to 4 weeks to determine if a sick person is part of an outbreak.

State and local public health officials are interviewing people about the foods they ate in the week before they got sick. Of the eight people interviewed, six (75%) reported tasting or eating raw batter made with a cake mix. People reported buying different varieties and brands of cake mix.

CDC advises people not to eat raw cake batter, whether made from a mix or homemade. Eating raw cake batter can make you sick. Raw cake batter can contain harmful bacteria. Bacteria are killed only when raw batter is baked or cooked.

For more information, and information on product details, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2021/o121-07-21/index.html>

The Kane County Health Department has an abundance of information about food safety online at [KaneHealth.com/Pages/Food-Safety.aspx](https://www.kanehealth.com/Pages/Food-Safety.aspx).

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