Raw Milk Outbreak

Campylobacter outbreak associated with unpasteurized milk – CDPHE	• **COW SHARES Gunnison CO** • **Outbreak started early April** • **Estimated 156+ shareholders** • **Gunnison & Montrose counties** • **5 culture confirmed cases** • **Age range: 18mos to 74 years** • **Average number days ill:4 .5** • **Supplier ceased distributing milk pending investigation**

1. Outbreak of Campylobacter Associated with a Raw Milk Dairy in Gunnison

CDPHE and several local public health agencies are investigating an outbreak of Campylobacter infections among persons who consumed unpasteurized milk from a cow share operation in Gunnison County. The outbreak was detected last Tuesday, April 23, by a CDPHE field epidemiologist when staff from two local public health agencies contacted her to report consuming unpasteurized milk. Each case had consumed milk from the same raw milk dairy. Gunnison and Montrose County health officials visited the dairy on April 25, 2013 to conduct a thorough investigation and to obtain a list of shareholders as well as fresh raw (unpasteurized) milk from the dairy. This sample was split and sent for testing simultaneously at the CDPHE lab and a private lab with whom the dairy contracts.

CDPHE staff are continuing a full epidemiologic investigation, including interviewing all 150+ shareholders of the dairy to inform each shareholder about the outbreak, cautioning them to discard any remaining milk, determining the extent of the outbreak, assessing exposures, and obtaining additional stool and raw milk samples from currently ill and previously ill individuals. As of April 29, the dairy voluntarily suspended distribution of raw milk pending the completion of the investigation. To date, 5 cases of culture-confirmed Campylobacter infection associated with the dairy have been identified in residents of Montrose (1) Gunnison (3) and Eagle (1) Counties. Cases range from 2 to 59 years of age, with onset dates ranging from April 8th to April 22nd. In addition, approximately 20 suspect cases from Gunnison, Eagle, and Chaffee counties have been identified. Campylobacter has been cultured from milk tested at both the CDPHE laboratory and the private laboratory.

The dairy's website lists pickup sites in Gunnison, Montrose, Eagle, Chaffee, Summit, Lake, Park and San Miguel counties. CDPHE asks that all local public health agencies assess exposure to unpasteurized milk during enteric disease interviews. Clinical labs in those counties where milk is distributed are asked to send Campylobacter isolates to the CDPHE lab until further notice.

For questions, concerns, or case reporting, please contact:

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Montrose Environmental Health Specialist, contracted through work done by West Central Public Health Partnership, assisted in this investigation. Gunnison Public Health served as liaison between dairy, CDPHE, local healthcare providers, and hospital & state labs to assist potential cases with testing.