



# What's Going Around: A Communicable Disease Report

## Diseases and conditions reported during October 13 -November 2, 2024:

*This report is a bi-monthly snapshot of communicable diseases reported in El Paso County, as well as a report of disease trends and local health alerts. El Paso County Public Health’s (EPCPH) Communicable Disease Program partners with the medical community and the public to limit and reduce the spread of diseases in our community.*

### Reportable diseases and conditions:

- 20 Animal Bites – 8 pediatric, 12 adults; 2 recommended to receive rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- 11 Campylobacteriosis – 1 pediatric, 10 adults
- 3 Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) - adults
- 2 Carbapenem-Resistant Pseudomonas Aeruginosa (CRPA) - adults
- 45 COVID-19-associated hospitalizations – 3 pediatric, 42 adults
- 1 Cryptosporidiosis – adult
- 5 Giardiasis – 2 pediatric, 3 adults
- 4 Influenza-associated hospitalization – adults
- 6 Invasive pneumococcal disease – adults
- 1 Legionellosis - adult
- 1 Lyme disease – adult
- 15 Pertussis –13 pediatric, 2 adults
- 5 Salmonellosis – 1 pediatrics, 4 adults
- 5 STEC (Shiga toxin-producing E. coli) - 1 pediatric, 4 adults

- 2 Shigellosis – adults
- 1 Vibriosis – adult

### Additional reports:

- Hospitalized Influenza since September 29, 2024: 6 total (6 Influenza A, 0 Influenza B, 0 Unsubtyped)
- Outbreaks reported:
  - 2 unknown GI outbreaks associated with schools & childcares.
  - 1 suspect norovirus associated with a healthcare facility.
  - 1 suspect STEC outbreak associated with a retail food establishment.
  - 1 pertussis outbreak associated with a school.
  - 7 COVID outbreaks in long term care facilities (investigated by CDPHE)

For a list of reportable diseases and conditions and instructions on how to report, follow this [link](#).

## Health News: Multistate Shiga Toxin-Producing E. coli (STEC) O157:H7 Outbreak Linked to McDonald’s Menu Item

All information is according to the latest [Food Safety Alert](#) from the Centers for Disease Control.

- State public health officials are coordinating with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention after identification of a Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC) O157:H7 foodborne outbreak associated with McDonald's Quarter Pounders sold in multiple states.
- Since October 22, 2024, the CDC has identified 90 associated cases in people who reside in 13 states, including 29 cases in Colorado.
  - A total of 27 people associated with the outbreak have been hospitalized for their illness. This includes one child and one adult with complications of hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS).
  - One older person with underlying conditions in Colorado has died after contracting E. coli (not due to HUS).
- Most cases in this outbreak are reporting eating the Quarter Pounder hamburger containing fresh, slivered onions at McDonald’s before becoming sick. Epidemiologic and traceback information show that fresh, slivered onions are the likely source of illness in this outbreak. Taylor Farms, the supplier of slivered onions to the affected McDonald’s locations has initiated a recall.
- Food service operators were contacted directly and told not to sell or serve recalled onions.
- The onions were only distributed to food service businesses, such as restaurants. It is not likely that recalled onions went to grocery stores or directly to consumers.
- This outbreak may not be limited to the states with known illnesses, and the true number of sick people is likely much higher than the number reported. This is because many people with E. coli recover without medical care and are not tested.

### Symptoms of STEC infection

- Most people with STEC infection experience severe stomach cramps, diarrhea (often bloody), and vomiting.
  - Symptoms usually start 3 to 4 days after ingesting the bacteria.
  - Most people recover without treatment after 5 to 7 days.
- Some people may develop serious renal complications (hemolytic uremic syndrome, also called HUS).
- People should seek medical evaluation if they experience severe symptoms of E. coli such as bloody diarrhea and vomiting.
- For more information about E. coli, see the [About Escherichia coli Infection](#) page.

### Testing and Treatment

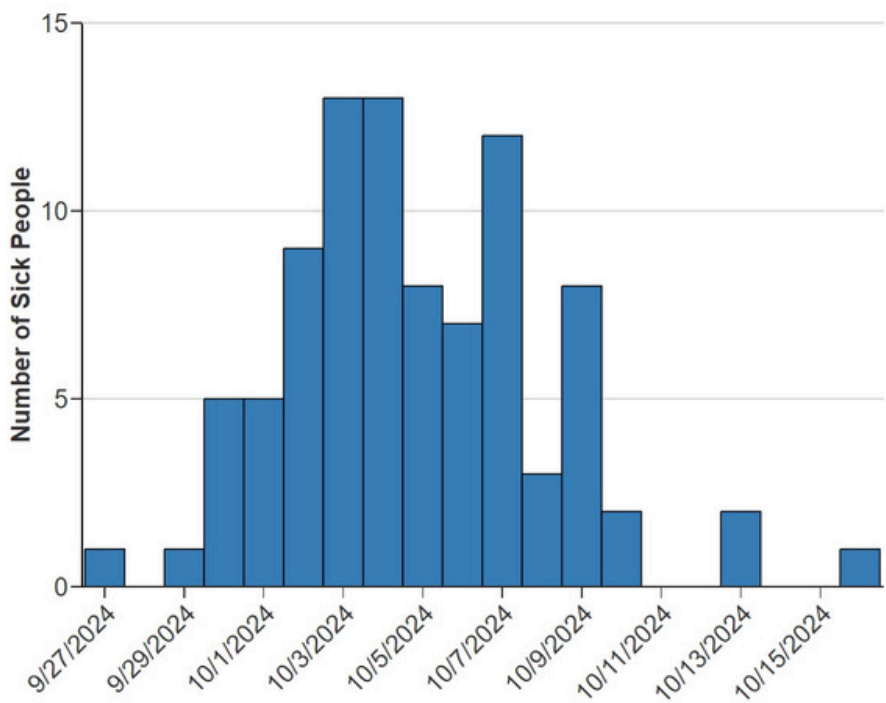
- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) or Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA) testing of stool is used to detect Shiga toxin in conjunction with culture-based methods to identify Shiga toxin-producing E. coli.
- In accordance with public health protocols for laboratories, positive Shiga toxin-producing E. coli specimens should be sent to the CDPHE Public Health Laboratory for isolate confirmation and whole genome sequencing.
- Antibiotics treatment is not recommended for treatment of E. coli O157:H7 infection because it may increase the risk of developing HUS.

### Infographics (page 2):

## Questions? Please Contact:

El Paso County Public Health CD/TB Program  
Hours: M-F, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
(719) 578-3220; after-hours emergency: (719) 235-2278  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
(303) 692-2700; after-hours emergency: (303) 370-9395  
[www.elpasocountyhealth.org](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org)  
Reportable Diseases and Conditions List

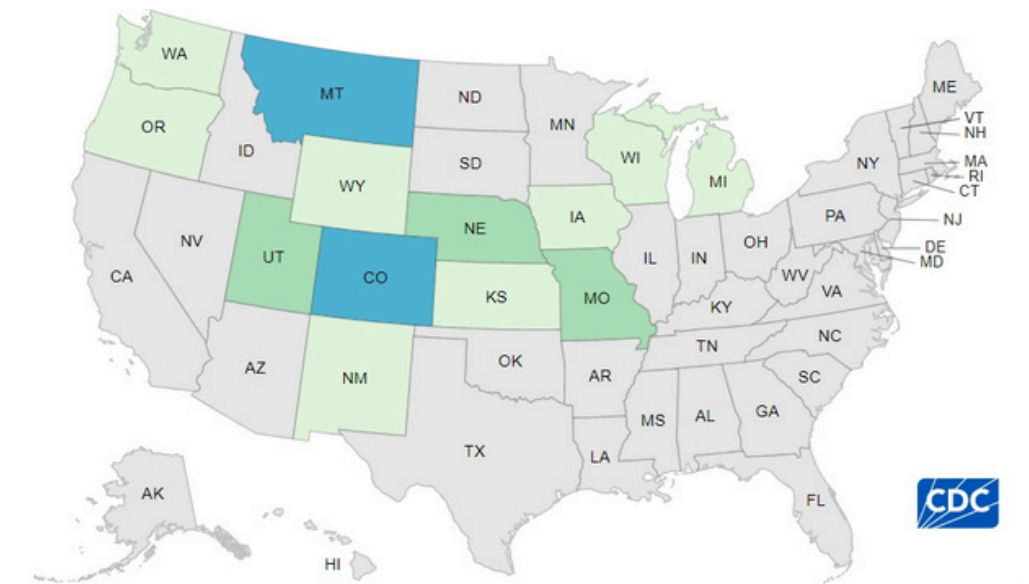
Epidemiologic Curve



When People Got Sick

Source: [CDC | When People Got Sick: E. coli Outbreak, Onions Served at McDonald's - October 30, 2024](#)

Case Count Map

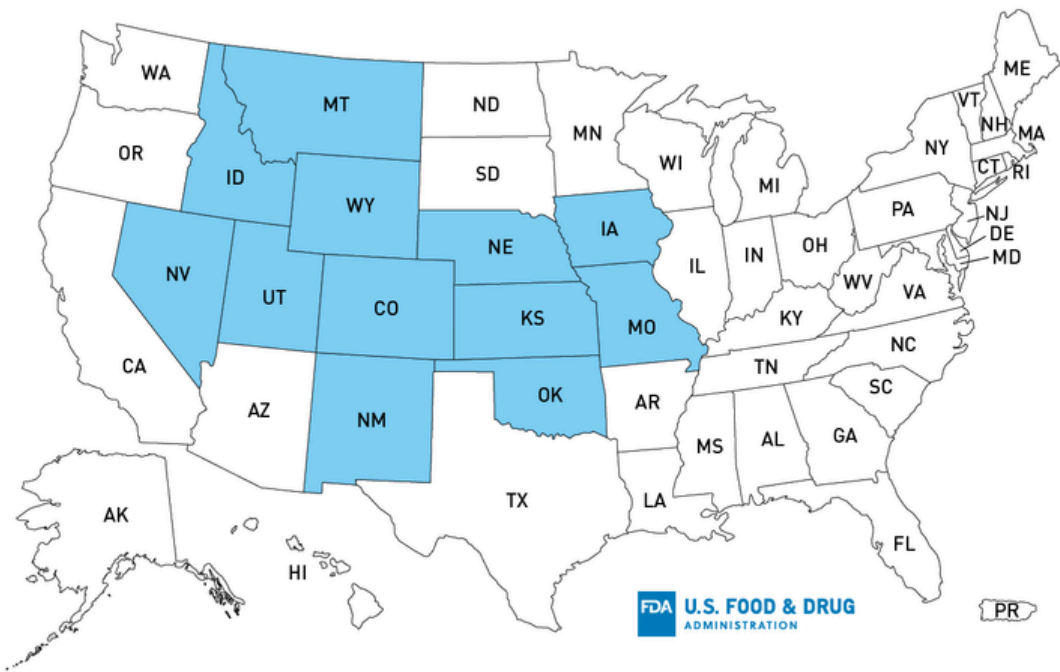


Number of Sick People

- 1 to 5
- 6 to 15
- 16 to 29

Source: [CDC | Where People Got Sick: E. coli Outbreak, McDonald's Quarter Pounders - October 30, 2024](#)

Map of U.S. Distribution of Recalled Taylor Farms Yellow Onions



Source: [Outbreak Investigation of E. coli O157:H7: Onions \(October 2024\)](#)