



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

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NEWS

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Cow Share Operation Advised on Requirements for Resumed Distribution of Raw Milk Products

DENVER – On April 7, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment ordered Kinikin Corner Dairy LLC in Montrose to cease distribution of its raw milk in response to 12 confirmed human cases of campylobacter reported on the Western Slope since March 30. Today, the department informed the dairy operator of conditions that will be required before resuming distribution of raw milk and raw milk products from the dairy.

The state health department is contacting approximately 200 people who are participants in the Kinikin cow share operation, whereby individuals buy a share of a cow and in return receive raw, unpasteurized milk.

To resume distribution of milk products, the dairy is required to conduct laboratory testing of milk collected at the dairy that shows the raw milk is negative for campylobacter, E. coli and fecal coliform. In addition, lab tests will be required that show the raw milk is negative for antibiotics, meets acceptable standards for total coliform and conforms to Kinikin's standards for acceptable levels of somatic cell and standard plate counts.

Until the above conditions are met, the public health order preventing distribution will remain in place. Consumers with raw milk or raw milk products from this dairy are advised to discard these products.

In addition to the initial laboratory testing required before Kinikin can resume distributing raw milk products, the dairy also is required to conduct follow-up sampling for the next two weeks that continues to show the raw milk is free of contamination.

All required sampling must be performed by a certified sampler recognized by the department. Except for the required testing for campylobacter, all required lab testing will be performed by either the state public health laboratory in Grand Junction or the state public health laboratory in Denver. Testing for campylobacter will be performed by the state public health laboratory in Denver.

State health officials stressed that, although the dairy may be reopened after passing the testing criteria, this does not mean the department certifies the milk as safe to drink. “The department cannot ensure the safety of milk that is not pasteurized,” said Ned Calonge, the state’s chief medical officer.

Of the 12 campylobacter cases, 11 report consuming raw milk originating from the Kinikin Dairy prior to illness. The 11 campylobacter cases reported in individuals drinking raw milk are in Delta (1), Eagle (2), Garfield (2), Montrose (4), Ouray (1) and San Miguel (1) counties. The one case of campylobacter not linked to raw milk is in Montezuma County.

Symptoms of campylobacter include fever, diarrhea (sometimes bloody), abdominal cramps, nausea and vomiting. People experiencing these symptoms should consult with their health-care provider.

The department also recommended that the dish-washing machine used to sanitize containers and other utensils used in the dairy be operated in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions, which call for a chlorine residual of 50–200 parts per million to be detected in the final sanitization rinse cycle. Other recommendations for the operator are to clean and sanitize milking equipment after each milking and to provide hand-washing facilities in the milk processing area and barn.

The department is working with Montrose Health and Human Services officials on the investigation of the outbreak.