

Ontarians Warned Not To Eat Certain Frozen Beef Burgers

NEWS

October 9, 2013

Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Arlene King, is warning Ontarians not to consume certain frozen beef burger products produced by Belmont Meats because they may be contaminated with E Coli.

A recall announced last week by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) that affected certain [Compliments brand Super 8 Beef Burgers](#) has been expanded to include [other products](#). Consumers are asked to visit the [CFIA's website](#) for a complete listing of all recalled products and to visit the website regularly as there may be recalls of additional products or best before dates as the food safety investigation continues.

Ontarians are reminded to check their fridges and freezers for the recalled product and if any is found, it is recommended that it be discarded or returned to the retailer.

As of October 9th, seven confirmed and one suspect case of E. Coli have been reported in Ontario linked to the ongoing investigation of recalled beef burgers.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is working closely with Public Health Ontario, the CFIA, Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada regarding the recall of these products.

QUOTE

"I strongly warn the public not to consume the affected products. E Coli infection can cause serious illness – anyone who may have consumed the product and shows signs of infection, such as stomach cramps, diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, fever, nausea and/or vomiting should see their physician immediately."

-Dr. Arlene King, Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health

QUICK FACTS

- E. coli are bacteria that are commonly found in the intestines of humans and animals, some of which may cause serious illness.
- E. coli infections can be spread by many food sources such as undercooked ground beef, unpasteurized apple cider and milk, ham, turkey, roast beef, sandwich meats, raw vegetables, cheese and contaminated water.
- Poor hand washing and improper food handling are factors that lead to the spread of the illness.
- Symptoms of E. coli infection include stomach cramps, diarrhea (possibly bloody), fever (infrequent), nausea, vomiting. If you or a family member have any of the symptoms, it is important to wash your hands, after going to the bathroom, and before preparing food for others.
- Anyone with persistent symptoms should see their physician immediately.

- E. Coli is not spread through normal, everyday interactions with friends or neighbours. However, once someone has consumed contaminated food or water, this infection can be passed from person to person by hand to mouth contact.
- Generally, an E. coli infection must run its course. Antibiotic medications are not recommended and may increase the risk of complications.

LEARN MORE

- [Learn more about E. Coli infection.](#)

For public inquiries call ServiceOntario, INFOLine at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only)

Media Contacts:
David Jensen, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care,
416-314-6197

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