

Southwest District Health

13307 Miami Lane ♦ Caldwell, Idaho 83607 ♦ (208) 455-5300 ♦ FAX (208) 454-7722

1008 E. Locust
Emmett, ID 83617
208/365-6371

1155 3rd Ave. N.
Payette, ID 83661
208/642-9321

46 W. Court St.
Weiser, ID 83672
208/549-2370

132 E. Idaho Street
Homedale ID 83628
208/337-4931

MEDICAL ALERT:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 3, 2014

For more information, contact:
(208) 455-5442

Gastrointestinal Illness Linked to Raw Milk

Southwest District Health officials have identified cryptosporidiosis in two Canyon County residents who consumed raw goat milk during the month of August from Treasured Sunrise Acres in Parma, Idaho. Testing conducted by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) identified *Cryptosporidium* in raw goat milk produced the week of August 24th. Those who have consumed raw goat or cow milk from Treasured Sunrise Acres dairy and are experiencing gastrointestinal symptoms are being advised to seek medical evaluation, stool testing, and treatment, if necessary.

Background

Cryptosporidium, commonly called Crypto, is a microscopic parasite that causes a diarrheal illness. Common symptoms of cryptosporidiosis can include: watery diarrhea, stomach cramps or pain, dehydration (which is often most serious in the very young and the very old), nausea, vomiting, fever, or weight loss. Symptoms usually begin two to ten days after infection and normally last for one to two weeks. Once a person is infected, the parasites live in the intestines and are passed in the stool.

Raw milk is a well recognized source of cryptosporidiosis and has been associated with outbreaks in several states. Due to the potential for raw milk to contain a variety of pathogens, both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) discourage the consumption of raw milk, especially by pregnant women, infants, and children.

Testing

Southwest District Health encourages healthcare providers to test patients who have consumed raw milk and have gastrointestinal symptoms for enteric bacteria and *Cryptosporidium*. *Cryptosporidium* is identified through a variety of microscopic techniques on stool (i.e. acid-fast staining, direct fluorescent antibody (DFA)) and/or enzyme immunoassays for detection of *Cryptosporidium* antigens. Collection of multiple stool specimens over several days may be necessary for diagnosis. Public health officials are also requesting laboratories forward all stool specimens that are positive for *Cryptosporidium* to the Idaho Bureau of Labs for speciation and genotyping.

Treatment

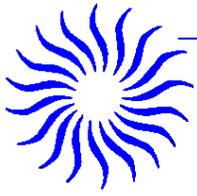
Most people with cryptosporidiosis who have a healthy immune system will recover without treatment. Nitazoxanide (brand name Alinia) has been FDA-approved for treatment of diarrhea caused by *Cryptosporidium* in people with healthy immune systems. For nitazoxanide dosage, duration, and efficacy see http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto/health_professionals/tx.html.

Discard Raw Milk

Treasured Sunrise Acres Dairy, ISDA, and local and state public health officials are recommending that anyone who purchased raw milk (goat or cow) produced by Treasured Sunrise Acres the week of August 24th, should discard it immediately. All sales of raw milk products by Treasured Sunrise Acres have been temporarily suspended by ISDA.

(1 of 2)

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MedAI-14-091



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Prevent Further Spread

Cryptosporidium is easily spread person-to-person through recreational water, poor hand hygiene, and contaminated surfaces. Advise infected patients to:

- Wash hands after using the bathroom, after changing diapers, before and after caring for someone who is ill with diarrhea, before preparing and eating food. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are not effective against Crypto.
- Do not swim when you have diarrhea and for at least 2 weeks after your diarrhea resolves.
- Disinfectants such as chlorine and iodine **do not kill** Crypto.
- Clean surfaces with soap and water or disinfect with 3% hydrogen peroxide solution for 20 minutes and then rinse thoroughly with soap and water.

Reporting Cases

All cases of cryptosporidiosis must be reported to public health within three working days.

Southwest District Health confidential reporting phone line: (208) 455-5442

Southwest District Health confidential reporting fax: (208) 455-5350