



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**11/04/2015**

***Latest Update on Potential Food borne Outbreak***

The Pike County Health Department and the Adams County Health Department along with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) continue to work on the investigation of what appears to be an outbreak of food borne illness associated with the Pike County Fall Color Drive, a large fall festival that spans several communities in Pike County, IL. As of November 4, 2015, more than 35 suspect cases of GI illnesses have been identified in attendees of the festival who consumed apple cider purchased from vendors at two locations. While the exact type of germ causing the illness is still being confirmed, health care providers are encouraged to test for E. Coli and Cryptosporidium. Additional specimen samples have been submitted to the Illinois State Laboratory and to the CDC for testing to determine the exact organism causing the illness and the actual food source.

Ill individuals have reported symptoms including profuse diarrhea, bloody diarrhea, abdominal cramping and vomiting. Illness onset dates range from October 20 – 28. Several persons have been hospitalized as a result of this illness, and additional illnesses continue to be reported daily. Symptoms usually last about 1 to 2 weeks (with a range of a few days to 4 or more weeks) in persons with healthy immune systems. Occasionally, people may experience a recurrence of symptoms after a brief period of recovery before the illness ends. Symptoms can come and go for up to 30 days. People who are especially vulnerable to this illness include: pregnant women, children under 2 years, elderly and immunocompromised individuals. If you attended the festival or consumed apple cider purchased from vendors at the festival and feel that you have these symptoms, contact your health care provider.

If you have apple cider that was purchased during the event that is fresh or frozen for future use, **DO NOT CONSUME IT**. Contact your local health department so that the cider can be tested. Pike County Health Department: 217.285.4407 Adams County Health Department: 217.222.8440. Health officials who identify cases with this exposure history are asked to contact the IDPH Communicable Disease Control Section at 217.782.2016 or email [justin.albertson@illinois.gov](mailto:justin.albertson@illinois.gov) .

For additional media questions contact:  
Emily Andrews  
Adams County Health Department  
217.222.8440 x 121  
eandrews@co.adams.il.us

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<http://www.co.adams.il.us/Health/index.htm>

<http://www.pikecoilhealth.org>

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