

RAW FARM Cheese Recall After E. Coli Outbreak Raises Health Concerns - Intermediate - EN

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Article

Federal health officials say people should not eat recalled RAW FARM raw cheddar cheese because it may be linked to a multistate E. coli outbreak. The FDA and CDC reported on April 3, 2026, that nine people in California, Florida, and Texas were infected with the outbreak strain. Three people were hospitalized, one person developed hemolytic uremic syndrome, and no deaths were reported. More than half of the illnesses were in children younger than five.

The recall covers original and jalapeno raw cheddar cheese sold in 8-ounce and 16-ounce blocks, shredded 8-ounce bags, and some 80-ounce bulk products. Original blocks with expiration dates on or before August 23, 2026, and jalapeno blocks on or before September 24, 2026, are included. Shredded original cheese with expiration dates on or before May 13, 2026, is also part of the recall.

Investigators say sick people reported buying RAW FARM products at Sprouts Farmers Market and H-E-B, although the cheese may have been sold at other retailers nationwide. The FDA said RAW FARM began a voluntary recall on April 2, and the agency started an onsite inspection and sample collection. So far, officials have not reported any positive product samples from this inspection period.

E. coli symptoms can begin a few days after eating contaminated food or as long as nine days later. People may have severe stomach cramps, diarrhea, fever, nausea, or vomiting. Some infections can lead to life-threatening problems, including kidney failure. Health officials told consumers, restaurants, and retailers not to eat, sell, or serve the recalled cheese. They should throw it away, sanitize any surfaces it touched, and contact a health care provider if symptoms appear.

Vocabulary Words List

Federal health officials — government health leaders recalled — officially taken back
multistate — covering more than one state outbreak strain — the germ type causing
this outbreak hospitalized — admitted to a hospital hemolytic uremic syndrome — a
serious illness that can harm the kidneys original — plain flavor jalapeno — spicy
pepper flavor 8-ounce — weighing eight ounces 16-ounce — weighing sixteen ounces
shredded — cut into thin small pieces bulk products — large items sold in quantity
expiration dates — dates after which a product should not be used August 23, 2026 —
one listed cutoff date September 24, 2026 — another listed cutoff date May 13, 2026
— the cutoff date for one shredded product Investigators — people who examine what
happened reported buying — said they bought retailers nationwide — stores across
the country voluntary recall — a company action to remove a product onsite
inspection — a check at the company location sample collection — gathering items for
testing positive product samples — tested products that show the germ inspection
period — the time of the official check contaminated food — food made unsafe by
germs severe stomach cramps — strong stomach pain life-threatening problems —
very dangerous health issues kidney failure — when the kidneys stop working well
sanitize — clean to remove germs health care provider — doctor or other medical
expert

Fill In The Blanks Listening Practice

_____ say people should not eat recalled RAW FARM raw cheddar cheese because it may be linked to a multistate E. coli outbreak. The FDA and CDC reported on April 3, 2026, that nine people in California, Florida, and Texas were infected with the outbreak strain. Three people were _____, one person developed hemolytic uremic syndrome, and no deaths were reported. More than half of the illnesses were in children younger than five.

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Vocabulary Retention Quiz

1. What company's cheese is linked to the outbreak?
2. How many people were hospitalized?
3. Which products were included in the recall?
4. Where did some sick people report buying the cheese?
5. What should people do if they have symptoms after eating it?

Discussion Questions

Why do you think raw dairy products can be difficult for health officials to regulate?

How should stores, restaurants, and consumers respond during a food safety outbreak?

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