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Montgomery County Health Department
Public Health Advisory

**HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS WARN
CONSUMERS ABOUT RAW MILK SOLD IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

HARRISBURG – State Health Secretary Dr. Calvin B. Johnson today advised consumers who purchased raw milk from Hendricks Farm & Dairy of Telford, Montgomery County, to immediately discard the raw milk and any products made with the raw milk due to potential bacterial contamination.

Raw milk is milk that has not been pasteurized or homogenized. Consumers who reported drinking raw milk purchased from the dairy experienced gastrointestinal illness and have been diagnosed with *Campylobacter*, a bacterial infection. **Seven confirmed cases** of *Campylobacter* infection have been reported since September 1 among raw milk drinker in seven unrelated households in **Pennsylvania and a neighboring state**. Approximately **one dozen** other people experienced similar gastrointestinal symptoms in those households. The investigation is ongoing.

The Departments of Agriculture today delivered a "Notice of Suspension of Raw Milk Permit" to the dairy owned by Trent and Rachel Hendricks. The dairy was instructed to stop selling raw milk for human consumption until the Permit is reinstated. The Department of Agriculture will require two raw milk samples to be tested negative for bacterial pathogens before further raw milk sales may occur.

Other action to ensure the safety of the public will depend upon the results of pending laboratory tests and the joint investigation by the Departments of Health and Agriculture.

The shelf-life for raw milk is about 14 days but can be longer if the milk is frozen. Freezing of the milk will not kill the *Campylobacter* bacteria.

Individuals who drank raw milk or ate other raw milk products purchased from Hendricks Farm & Dairy and became ill are advised to consult with their physician. If no illness occurred, it is not necessary to seek medical attention.

Campylobacter is a bacterial infection that affects the intestinal tract and can sometimes affect the bloodstream and other organs. It is one of the most common causes of gastroenteritis, which can include diarrhea and vomiting. Approximately 1,300 confirmed cases of *Campylobacter* are reported each year in Pennsylvania.

Onset of illness usually occurs in 2 to 5 hours after swallowing the bacteria. Patients often do not require specific medical treatment unless they become severely dehydrated or the infection spreads from the intestines. People with severe diarrhea may require rehydration, often with intravenous fluids.

For more information about *Campylobacter*, visit Montgomery County Health Department:

<http://www.montcopa.org/health> or Pennsylvania Department of Health: <http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/site/>

This message was distributed by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Division of Disease Control via the Philadelphia Health Alert Network. For questions or concerns regarding distribution, please contact us at HIP@phila.gov. For questions regarding content, please contact the Montgomery County Health Department at (610) 278-5117.