



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**11/05/2015**

### ***Update Potential Food Borne Outbreak***

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) continues to work directly with staff from Adams and Pike County Health Departments on investigation of an outbreak of food borne illness associated with the Pike County Fall Color Drive, which was held on the weekend of October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in Pike County, Illinois. As of November 5<sup>th</sup>, more than 60 people who attended the Color Drive and drank apple cider, from vendors at several different locations, have become ill with diarrhea, cramping, and vomiting. Ill persons range in age from less than one year to 89 years old. 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*.

Laboratory results are currently pending, per samples submitted to both the IDPH lab in Illinois and the CDC lab, in Atlanta, Georgia. Lab results are expected to help in confirming the exact organism causing these illnesses and to confirm the food source related to the illnesses.

Ill individuals have reported symptoms including profuse diarrhea, bloody diarrhea, abdominal cramping and vomiting. Illness onset dates now range from October 18- November 4<sup>th</sup>. 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 Color Drive or consumed apple cider purchased from vendors at the Color Drive 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:  
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