

For Immediate Release  
10/17/12 Update [2 p.m.](#)

The Division of Public Health of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services in collaboration with Local Health Departments is investigating an outbreak of *E. coli* infection in 61 people who attended the Cleveland County Fair. As of [2 p.m.](#), 38 children\* and 23 adults are known to be/have been affected by this outbreak. Eleven individuals\* have been or are currently hospitalized.

The county case counts are as follows:

Cleveland County - 33

Gaston County - 11\*

Lincoln County – 10

Catawba County – 1

Mecklenburg - 1

Union County – 2

York County, South Carolina – 2

Cherokee County, South Carolina – 1

\*this number includes one death related to the outbreak

**Note: Case counts during an active investigation may change daily as more information is learned.**

Symptoms of *E. coli* infection could occur as late as 10 days after exposure and may include:

diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, which may be accompanied by abdominal cramps

nausea

vomiting

sometimes low-grade fever

*E. coli* infection can spread from person to person; however, it can be prevented through frequent hand washing, particularly after using the rest room, after changing diapers, after touching animals and before eating, drinking or preparing food. Anyone experiencing symptoms or illness should contact their doctor or local health department.

Case count updates will be posted daily after [2 p.m.](#) at <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/diseases/ecoli.html>