



January 11, 2019

Dear Farm Buying Club Members,

A person who drank raw milk from Miller's Biodiversity Farm in Quarryville, Pennsylvania has been hospitalized for an infection called brucellosis which is caused by bacteria called *Brucella*. The patient's only known exposure is drinking raw milk, and milk samples taken at that dairy have also tested positive for a *Brucella* strain called RB51. You are receiving this letter because you or a family member may have been exposed to the bacteria that causes brucellosis. The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) is advising people who consumed raw milk or raw milk products from this farm since January 2016 to see their healthcare provider about whether they should receive medication to prevent or treat illness. Tell your doctor to contact the state health department for further information.

Brucellosis symptoms include fever, headaches, backaches, joint pain, muscle pain, sweating, loss of appetite, or weight loss. The symptoms can last for many weeks, resolve, and then recur.

If you have NOT been sick with the above symptoms but have consumed raw milk or raw milk products from the farm any time since July 1, 2018, you are still at risk. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends seeking medical care and watching for fever, headaches, backaches, joint pain, muscle pain, sweating, or loss of appetite for a period of 6 months from the last time you consumed raw milk or raw milk products from Miller's Biodiversity Farm.

If you have been sick with the above symptoms since you consumed dairy products from the Miller's Biodiversity Farm any time since January 2016, you should seek medical care as soon as possible. The strain of *Brucella*, called RB51, requires treatment with specific antibiotics so please talk to your provider concerning appropriate care and make sure they know you were potentially exposed to *Brucella* strain RB51. Even if you had symptoms and testing done by your provider suggests that you do not have brucellosis, CDC recommends consulting your healthcare provider if you develop any symptoms consistent with brucellosis and notifying them of potential exposure.

If you consumed the products of concern from Miller's Biodiversity Farm, it is important to consult your healthcare provider whether you have symptoms or not. This particular strain of *Brucella* requires special diagnostic testing and specific antibiotics. More information is available at this website: <https://www.cdc.gov/brucellosis/clinicians/rb51-raw-milk.html>. If brucellosis is left untreated, it can result in severe health issues that can affect your heart, brain, and other organs. Tell your doctor to contact the state health department at the number listed below for further information.

State	Number	Contact
Florida	850-245-4401	Dr. Yari Torres
Maryland	410-767-5649	Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases
Massachusetts	617-983-6800	Bureau of Infectious Disease
Minnesota	651-201-5414	Zoonotic Disease Unit
Mississippi	601-576-7725	MSDH Office of Epidemiology
New Jersey	609-826-4872	Dr. Colin Campbell
New York	518-473-4439	Bureau of Communicable Disease Control
New York City	866-692-3641	Bureau of Communicable Disease Doctor of the Week
Pennsylvania	717-787-3350	Dr. Betsy Schroeder or Dr. Joann Gruber

Sincerely,



Sharon Watkins, PhD
State Epidemiologist
Director, Bureau of Epidemiology