

Check against delivery

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E. Coli outbreak in Germany: State of play

According to the latest information provided by the authorities of the Member States mostly affected by the Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli* STEC) outbreak, here is where we stand at the moment:

A number of people with STEC developed the haemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), a serious form of the disease. The STEC outbreak is responsible for three deaths in Germany, while a total of 329 HUS cases have been recorded there according to the information that we have as of this morning. Sweden has reported 30 STEC cases out of which 13 developed HUS, Denmark 11 STEC cases (five with HUS), the UK three (two HUS), the Netherlands one HUS case and Austria two STEC cases. The outbreak affects mainly northern Germany, and in particular an area around the city of Hamburg, while most of the cases reported outside Germany concerns either German nationals visiting the other affected Member States or persons who had been visiting Germany.

On May the 26th the German authorities identified fresh cucumbers from Almeria and Malaga as one of the possible sources responsible for the outbreak, and investigations are ongoing to identify other potential sources. A third suspect batch of cucumbers originating either in the Netherlands or in Denmark, and traded in Germany, is also under investigation. On May 27, the Spanish authorities suspended the activities of two establishments in the provinces of Almeria and Malaga, see also Espresso that the Commission distributed on Friday [27 May].

Samples have been taken from the soil, water and products and investigations are ongoing and we expect results on Wednesday to be confirmed.

One suspect consignment of Spanish cucumbers has been distributed to Denmark. The Danish authorities have traced these cucumbers and withdrew them from the market. They have also reassured the Commission that no cucumbers from these consignments have been traded further to other Member States.

Suspected batches of cucumbers have also been redistributed to Hungary, Austria, France, Luxembourg and the Czech Republic.

The Commission follows the situation closely. It activated immediately all existing networks created to manage this kind of incidents and is in constant contact with all affected Member States.

For more information please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/coli_outbreak_germany_en.htm

For the exact text of the European Commission's statement, please see link to EBS webpages: http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/download/audio_download_en.cfm?id=180653