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Intestinal Illness Reported In Nebraska and Iowa

(AP) The number of confirmed cases of a rare food-borne illness in Nebraska has climbed to 48 as state and federal public health agencies try to figure out where it's coming from.

An outbreak of cyclosporiasis is confined mostly to Douglas County in eastern Nebraska and is likely linked to Iowa where 71 people were confirmed sick as of Monday.

Nebraska Epidemiologist Doctor Thomas Safranek says fresh vegetables are likely the culprit but the investigation continues.

Consumers should wash fruits and vegetables to reduce the risk of getting the illness, which causes diarrhea lasting an average of 57 days. It's caused by a parasite carried primarily in human feces that contaminates food.

The illness is rare in Nebraska. No cases were reported in the last four years.

Associated Press