

# TRAGIC STORY OF A CHILD'S DEATH LINKED TO E. COLI O157:H7 OUTBREAK AT WASHINGTON DAYCARE

May 5, 2010 Food Safety Infosheet  
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## Source of outbreak is still unknown; hygiene, cross-contamination and food all potential factors



An April 2010 *E. coli* O157:H7 outbreak at a Vancouver, Washington child care facility, Fletch Family Daycare led to the death of a 4-year-old boy. Ronan Wilson tragically lost his life after a short battle with the pathogen. Four other children were also hospitalized.

weak he needed help sitting up.”

According to reports, further symptoms such as “vomit and feces red with blood” appeared a day later. Ronan was rushed from Vancouver to Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland. Doctors' focus transferred from Ronan's colon to his brain which was swelling, and showing signs of damage. His lungs also filled with liquid and he required a ventilator to breathe. Six days later Ronan died.

Thirteen (13) cases of *E. coli* O157:H7 were confirmed with some individuals showing no symptoms. According to investigators, other illnesses began in early March with children displaying minor foodborne illness symptoms. These children continued to attend the facility.

### What you can do:

- Practice good hygiene, especially food handlers who also care for children (including handwashing after handling diapers).
- Cook foods to safe temperatures.
- Avoid cross-contamination between potentially contaminated foods and ready-to-eat foods.
- Source food from suppliers who invest in food safety.

Ronan's symptoms of vomiting and diarrhea were initially diagnosed as norovirus when his mother sought medical care on March 29.

By April 1 Ronan made a repeat visit to the pediatrician “dehydrated, constipated and so

