



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2018

Media Contact: Melissa Morin, Communications Specialist
Phone: (360) 778-6022; (360) 594-2504
E-mail address: mmorin@whatcomcounty.us

Salmonella Outbreak Linked to Kratom Widens, 1 Whatcom County Case

BELLINGHAM, WA — Washington State Department of Health announced today that the Salmonella outbreak linked to kratom has widened. Ten (10) cases have been confirmed in Washington State, including one (1) case in Whatcom County. State health officials say people should not consume kratom in any form.

[Kratom](#) is a plant used for its stimulant effects and as an opioid substitute. It is typically brewed as a tea, chewed, smoked, or ingested in capsules. It is not regulated or safety-tested by any U.S. consumer safety entity; however, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will post [product recalls](#) related to this outbreak on their website. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is coordinating [this multi-state Salmonella outbreak](#) which has sickened at least 87 people in at least 35 states.

People who have consumed kratom and have symptoms of Salmonella illness (severe or bloody diarrhea, fever, chills, abdominal discomfort, and occasionally vomiting) should contact their health care provider, being sure to mention any products they've consumed that may contain kratom. Some kratom-containing products might not list it on the label.

Anyone can get Salmonella, but these groups are most at risk for severe illness:

- People with weakened immune systems
- Pregnant women
- People younger than five years old and older adults

More information about Salmonella can be found on the [Washington State Department of Health's Salmonella web page](#).

###

