



Position Statement on Sale of Raw Milk to the Public

January 2023

The Scott County Board of Health does not support the retail sale of raw milk for public consumption. Current data shows the consumption of raw milk does not provide any substantial health benefits, while posing significant public health risk.

The Board finds that:

Claims of the benefits of raw milk are not accurate.

- Raw milk provides no demonstrated nutritional advantage over pasteurized milk.
- Pasteurization does not significantly degrade the nutritional quality of milk.
- Nutrients which provide substantive value in raw milk are present to the same degree in pasteurized milk.
- Removal of immunological, allergic and structural advantages of raw milk during pasteurization is not supported by peer-reviewed research.
- There is no reputable science to support claims that raw milk cures lactose intolerance, asthma, allergies, is more effective at preventing osteoporosis, or building immune systems.


Hygienic concerns of raw milk exist.


- Even under ideal hygienic conditions for the collection and packaging of raw milk, the probability of contamination is high.
- Raw milk can contain a variety of disease-causing pathogens, including E. Coli 0157:H7, Salmonella, Streptococcus spp., Yersinia Enterocolitica, Campylobacter jejuni, Staphylococcus aureus, Listeria monocytogenes, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, and Coxiella burnetti.
- These disease agents are capable of causing severe and life-threatening illness, particularly in the very young, elderly, pregnant women, and persons with compromised immune systems.

Current published works on the effect of public raw milk availability demonstrate increased illness.

- Raw milk is 150 times more likely to cause illness and results in 13 times more hospitalizations than pasteurized milk.
- States that have expanded the sale of raw milk for retail have shown a near four-fold increase in illness outbreaks associated with raw milk.
- States that allow for direct to the consumer on farms have shown a near three-fold increase in illness outbreaks associated with raw milk.
- Raw milk represents less than 1% of all milk consumed in the US, yet it is responsible for the majority all milk-related disease outbreaks.

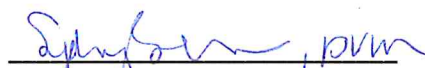
Therefore, the Scott County Board of Health supports current Iowa Law which prohibits the retail sale of raw milk for public consumption. We find this to be sound public policy which protects and preserves the health of Iowans.


 Kathleen Hanson, PhD. MN, Chair


 Ann O'Donnell, DO, Vice-Chair


 Michael Franzman, DDS


 Sherwin Robinson


 Sydney Schermer, DVM



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