

Investigation into E. coli outbreak at Calgary and area daycares deepens^[1]

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Excerpts

The number of sick children continues to grow following an E. coli outbreak at almost a dozen Calgary and area daycare centres — most under the banner of Fueling Brains Academy.

As of Tuesday afternoon, there were a reported 15 children in hospital. The number of lab-confirmed cases had also more than tripled since Monday — from 17 to 56 cases.

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Redwood is one of many angry parents demanding answers from Fueling Brains, questioning why parents were only sent a letter Monday night.

“I don’t feel they let us know as fast as they knew what it was,” she said, pointing out many parents had complained about symptoms since Sunday.

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An earlier statement said one of the hypotheses was that the cause was food prepared by its “central kitchen”. Global News has been able to confirm that kitchen is run by the company under the banner of Fueling Minds.

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Global News obtained AHS Health Inspection Reports dating back to 2021. While some of Fueling Minds’ inspections passed with no issues over the years, there were some violations. According to the reports, issues included lack of sanitizer in the kitchen, dirty food contact surfaces, broken appliances and food not being stored at safe temperatures.

There were follow-up inspections and most violations were eventually corrected according to the reports.

Redwood said this outbreak shows there is still much more that the company can and should do.

“I feel there definitely should have been higher standards for food preparation and quality.”

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Redwood, who’s a single mom and has had to take a week off of work, said she has lost trust in the company. However, given Alberta’s lack of available care spots she’s “between a rock and a hard place” when it comes to sending her son back.

“My confidence level with the daycare? Honestly, not very high,” she pointed out. “Not only did they literally feed it to them, but they didn’t take ownership right away.”

“I want answers and I want holding the people responsible — responsible.”

Region: Alberta^[3]
Tags: health and safety^[4]
 auspice^[5]
 quality^[6]

Links

[1] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/23/09/investigation-e-coli-outbreak-calgary-and-area-daycares-deepens> [2] <https://globalnews.ca/news/9940821/calgary-daycares-e-coli-outbreak-investigation/> [3] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/7859> [4] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/health-and-safety> [5] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/auspice> [6] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/quality>