

Unpasteurised (raw) milk alert

4 December 2014

On the 2 December 2014, Dr Rosemary Lester, Victoria's Chief Health Officer, released an alert regarding the danger of consuming unpasteurised milk.

The alert follows the notification of a number of serious illnesses amongst individuals who have consumed unpasteurised (raw) milk sold as 'bath' or 'cosmetic' milk in Victoria.

The statement may be found on the [Department of Health website](#).

In Australia, the sale of unpasteurised (raw) cow's milk for human consumption is illegal. In Victoria, it is also illegal to package, deliver or provide unpasteurised (raw) milk for human consumption.

If you drink raw milk it increases your risk of acquiring various gastrointestinal illnesses, including those caused by microorganisms (bacteria). Consumers exposed to these organisms may experience symptoms which can range from mild discomfort (diarrhoea and vomiting) to life-threatening illnesses.

For further information, see the DFSV technical note on the [risks of consuming raw milk](#) and [Better Health Channel](#).