

June 28, 2024

Division of Environmental Health Science and Practice
National Center for Environmental Health
4770 Buford Highway NE
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dr. Erik Svendsen,

I am writing concerning the investigation of illnesses due to Diamond Shrumz™ brand chocolate bars, cones, & gummies (June 2024) and identification of illnesses associated to the referenced chocolate products containing mushroom edible products. As of June 24, 2024, there have been a reported 39 total cases, including 23 hospitalizations in 20 U.S. states with ongoing efforts to identify other potential cases. No deaths have been reported, and the cause of the illness is not known yet. The event is associated with severe symptoms including seizures, central nervous system depression (loss of consciousness, confusion, sleepiness), agitation, abnormal heart rates, hyper/hypotension, nausea, and vomiting.

The investigation and illnesses extend to multiple adjacent and non-adjacent states and territories, necessitating a coordinated investigation across multiple states and jurisdictions. It also demands specialized assistance and resources for an adequate response that also includes toxicological effects of the exposure. Risk communications and appropriate case reporting will be essential to an appropriate response for affected states.

The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) strongly supports a centrally coordinated multistate and jurisdictional epidemiological response and investigation of Diamond Shrumz™ brand chocolate bars, cones, and gummies and recommends multistate technical assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). A multistate coordinated epidemiologic investigation of Diamond Shrumz™ brand products will continue to assist each public health jurisdiction in making rapid, practical decisions for actions to prevent and control the public health problem. This unified approach will enhance and optimize the response, unlike separate investigations by each state and jurisdiction, which could result in limited and non-comparable conclusions owing to the small number of cases in each state.

Each jurisdiction participating in the multi-jurisdictional response will share the findings from their own investigations, would retain ownership of and is responsible for all data collected within their state. Thank you for supporting this need and this important work.

Sincerely,



Janet Hamilton, MPH
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists