

## E.coli Outbreak

### 大肠杆菌爆发

英语学习点: **Disease Vocabulary** 感染病词汇

Europe has been **in the grip of** an **outbreak** of **E.coli**, which has so far **infected** 2,400 people and killed 24.

Most **cases** have been caused by **contaminated** food produce, although E.coli can **spread** from person to person.

Daniel Bahr, the German health minister, has said he hopes the outbreak has **peaked**:

"I cannot **sound the all-clear**, but after analysing the latest data we have reasonable cause for hope. The worst of the illness **is behind us**."

E.coli is short for Escherichia coli. It is a kind of **bacterium** that is normally harmless. However, the current outbreak is a new **strain** of E.coli which produces a **toxin** which can damage the kidneys. **Symptoms** include **diarrhoea**, **severe cramps**, and **fevers**.

There has been heavy criticism of Germany's **handling** of the **crisis**.

On Tuesday the European Commission proposed giving at least 150m euros (1.4 billion yuan) to farmers who have lost money because of the outbreak.

Spain has demanded complete **compensation** from Germany for financial losses suffered by its farmers because of a false accusation that the outbreak was caused by Spanish cucumbers.

Events took an unexpectedly humorous turn when a Spanish delegate, Francisco Sosa-Wagner, held up a cucumber in a speech to the European parliament and said, "We need to restore the honour of the cucumber."

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分



*Germans have been advised to avoid salad vegetables*

## Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Is this statement true, false or not given? *The E.coli illness has gone away.*
2. Has the way Germany has taken care of the crisis attracted praise?
3. Is this statement true, false or not given? *The European Commission has promised at least 150 million euros of compensation for farmers.*
4. Why did Francisco Sosa-Wagner hold up a cucumber?
5. Look at the article. What phrase refers to pains in the stomach?

## Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个语法正确且意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ started in Germany.

breakdown	breakout	outbreak	outcast
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2. Daniel Bahr has not yet \_\_\_\_\_ the all-clear.

handled	made	sounded
	spread	

3. This type of E.coli is a new \_\_\_\_\_ which can damage people's kidneys.

strain	sprain	stain	sane
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4. Germany's \_\_\_\_\_ of the crisis has been criticised.

Symptom	handling	peaking	infection
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5. The European Commission is going to provide some \_\_\_\_\_ to farmers.

compensation	conversation	competition
contamination		

## Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

### Quiz 小测验

1. Is this statement true, false or not given? *The E.coli illness has gone away.* False. The health minister hopes that the worst of the illness is over, but he cannot sound the all-clear.
2. Has the way Germany has taken care of the crisis attracted praise? No. It has attracted heavy criticism.
3. Is this statement true, false or not given? *The European Commission has promised at least 150 million euros of compensation for farmers.* True.
4. Why did Francisco Sosa-Wagner hold up a cucumber? He was making a speech and he used the cucumber to add force to what he was saying.
5. Look at the article. What phrase refers to pains in the stomach? Stomach cramps.

### Exercise 练习

1. The outbreak started in Germany.
2. Daniel Bahr has not yet sounded the all-clear.
3. This type of E.coli is a new strain which can damage people's kidneys.
4. Germany's handling of the crisis has been criticised.
5. The European Commission is going to provide some compensation to farmers.

### Glossary 词汇表

in the grip of something 陷入/卷入	outbreak 爆发
E.coli 大肠杆菌	infected 感染的
case (一起) 病例	contaminated 被感染的
to spread 流行/传染	to peak 达到高峰
to sound the all-clear 危机已经解除	for something to be behind someone 落后于某人
bacterium 细菌	strain 类型
toxin 有毒的	symptom 症状
diarrhoea (感染性) 腹泻	severe cramps 严重痉挛/抽筋
fevers 高烧	handling of something 对某事的处理
crisis 危机	compensation 赔偿