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VVMA Policy Statement

Raw Milk Sales and Consumption

The VVMA recognizes that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Vermont Department of Health warn that drinking milk which has not been pasteurized (raw milk) may be harmful to human health.

Raw (unpasteurized) milk and fresh products made from raw milk such as cream, soft cheeses, yogurt, or ice cream can be a source of exposure to organisms which are pathogenic to humans including, but not limited to *Brucella* spp., *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Coxiella burnetii*, *Escherichia coli*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Mycobacterium bovis*, *Salmonella* spp., *Staphylococcus* spp., and *Streptococcus* spp. Only pasteurized milk and pasteurized fresh milk products should be sold for human consumption. Putative benefits of raw milk consumption on human health are either unsupported by scientific evidence, or cannot be separated from the potential hazards associated with raw milk consumption. Therefore, consumption of raw milk cannot be recommended as a preventive or protective human health measure.

Adopted by the VVMA Executive Committee 3/1/09