



“PASS” Produce Alert Safety System

Dear Valued Network,

This is an **OUTBREAK UPDATE:**

Company: Unknown

Product(s): Linked to Romaine Lettuce

Reason(s): Multistate outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 (*E. coli* O157:H7) infections

FoodTrack Update - <http://analytics.foodtrack.net/cgi-bin/read?rid=MjAxODExMjYxOTA4Rk9PRFRSQ0tCVUxMRVRTXzExMjYxOEo1MTY=&style=html&source=email>

FDA Update - <https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm626716.htm>

“Romaine lettuce that was harvested outside of the Central Coast growing regions of northern and central California does not appear to be related to the current outbreak. Hydroponically- and greenhouse-grown romaine also does not appear to be related to the current outbreak. There is no recommendation for consumers or retailers to avoid using romaine harvested from these sources.”

Keeping You Informed,

Your Dedicated NPC, LLC Staff



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This is an **OUTBREAK UPDATE: INFO FROM THE FDA & FOODTRACK**

“Over the Thanksgiving holiday, the FDA continued to investigate the outbreak. Our investigation at this point suggests that **romaine lettuce associated with the outbreak comes from areas of California that grow romaine lettuce over the summer months, and that the outbreak appears to be related to “end of season” romaine lettuce harvested from these areas. The involved areas include the Central Coast growing regions of central and northern California.**

Based on further discussions with the leafy greens industry and with agricultural authorities, we have begun to narrow the location in which we believe the contaminated romaine in the current outbreak was grown. **At the time of the outbreak, the vast majority of the romaine on the market was being grown in the Central Coast region of California. Since, then harvesting of romaine lettuce from this region has ended for the year.** Growing and harvesting of romaine lettuce is now shifting to the winter growing regions of the U.S., which include mainly the California desert region of the Imperial Valley, the desert region of Arizona in and around Yuma, and Florida. Romaine lettuce grown in Mexico is exported to the U.S. during the winter months. Smaller quantities of romaine lettuce are grown in other states. **At this time, the FDA has no information to suggest any of these growing areas are involved in the current outbreak, which began well before any romaine lettuce from these winter growing locations was available for harvest.** In addition, hydroponic romaine lettuce and romaine lettuce grown in green-houses is also marketed in the U.S., but there is no information to suggest these products are implicated in any identified E. coli O157:H7 outbreak. The FDA believes it was critically important to have a “clean break” in the romaine supply available to consumers in the U.S. in order to purge the market of potentially contaminated romaine lettuce related to the current outbreak. This appears to have been accomplished through the market withdrawal request of Nov. 20, 2018.

Therefore, the FDA is issuing the following updated advice as part of our investigation and public warning: Based on discussions with major producers and distributors, romaine lettuce entering the market will now be labeled with a harvest location and a harvest date. Romaine lettuce entering the market can also be labeled as being hydroponically or greenhouse grown.

If it does not have this information, you should not eat or use it.”



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Dear Valued Network,

This is an **OUTBREAK UPDATE: INFO FROM THE PRODUCE NEWS**

<http://theproducenews.com/the-produce-news-today-s-headlines/25497-fda-clears-romaine-sales-from-non-affected-regions>

“FDA clears Romaine sales from non-affected regions”

“The recent moratorium on Romaine lettuce sales was set to be eased Nov. 26 by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, which is in the process of issuing new guidance for the industry following an outbreak of *E. coli* that has been attributed to Romaine lettuce.

In a Nov. 26 conference call, FDA said it would allow shipments and sales of Romaine lettuce harvested on or after Nov. 23 from areas outside the central coast growing regions of Central and Northern California. The permitted areas include the Imperial Valley and other desert growing regions in California, as well as **Yuma, AZ**, Florida and Mexico. Hydroponic and greenhouse-grown Romaine from any region also may be sold.

To be compliant with the new guidance, packages of Romaine lettuce will need to include information about the date of harvest and the growing region, and retailers must include signage to assure customers that the lettuce was sourced from areas outside the recall zones.

With regard to Romaine used in foodservice applications, the restaurant or other establishment is considered the end-user and must verify the product was sourced from approved areas but need not include signage, according to FDA.”

Keeping You Informed,

Your Dedicated NPC, LLC Staff