



Nov. 22, 2019

FDA Warns Against Eating Romaine Lettuce from Salinas, California
CDC Reports 40 Cases and 16 States

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) shared an update today that they are now warning consumers, restaurants, and retailers not to eat, serve, or sell **ANY** romaine lettuce from the Salinas, California, region as it investigates an outbreak of *E. coli* O157:H7 infections linked to romaine. They also recommend that consumers, customers, and retailers not eat, buy, sell or serve romaine lettuce that does not have a growing region labeled or if it cannot identify where it is from. At this time, romaine lettuce that was harvested outside of the Salinas region has not been impacted by this warning.

If consumers, retailers and restaurants have romaine lettuce harvested from Salinas, it should be discarded or returned to the place of purchase. The FDA also directs that “If romaine lettuce does not have information about the harvest region or does not indicate that it has been grown indoors (i.e., hydroponically- and greenhouse-grown), throw it away or return it to the place of purchase.”

The CDC states that a total of 40 people have been infected with the outbreak strain of *E. coli* O157:H7, with 28 hospitalizations, in 16 states. There have been no deaths. Illnesses started on dates ranging from Sept. 24 to Nov. 10, 2019. We are saddened to hear that more people are impacted by this situation, and we wish them a speedy recovery.

It’s important to note that at this time no illnesses outside of those in Maryland are connected with Ready Pac Foods and that the romaine lettuce linked to these new cases is NOT affiliated with our company. According to the CDC, “No common grower, supplier, distributor, or brand of romaine lettuce has been identified.”

It was reported that whole genome sequencing has revealed that the current cases match the romaine E. coli strain from the Adam's Brothers Farms outbreak identified last November.

The safety and quality of our products and the well-being of our consumers are our top priorities. We will continue to monitor the situation very closely, and we will continue to make new information readily available.

We will continue to work with all regulatory agencies to take any action necessary to protect the health of consumers.

We will continue to monitor the situation very closely, and we will continue to make new information readily available.

For media inquiries, please contact (626) 678-2222.