



*Delivering Solutions Daily*

**CDC Advisory - Romaine Lettuce**

**11/30/18**

**To:** All Vice Presidents of Operations, All Plant General Managers, All Customer Service Managers, All Day Warehouse managers, All Returns Department Supervisors, Corporate Administration Manager

**CC:** Executive Vice President of sales, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Vice President of sales, Executive Vice President of Merchandising, Executive Vice President of Planning, Development and Administration, Senior Vice President of Merchandising, Vice President of Procurement and Inventory management, Manager of Inventory Management, Mike O'Neill

**From:** Tony Baert

**RE: Romaine Lettuce Update**

The FDA has issued the following update regarding romaine lettuce.

The FDA, along with CDC, state and local agencies, is investigating a multistate outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 illnesses likely linked to romaine lettuce grown in California this fall. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Canadian Food Inspection Agency are also coordinating with U.S. agencies as they investigate a similar outbreak in Canada.

The FDA has been conducting a traceback investigation, reviewing shipping records and invoices to trace the supply of romaine from the place where ill people were exposed to the place where that romaine was grown.

Preliminary traceback information indicates that ill people in several areas across the country were exposed to romaine lettuce harvested in California. Specifically, current evidence indicates this romaine was harvested in the Central Coast growing regions of northern and central California.

[New Information as of November 28, 2018]

The specific California counties FDA is including in this region are:

- Monterey
- San Benito
- San Luis Obispo
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Cruz
- Ventura

Additional counties may be added as the FDA traceback develops.

Romaine harvested from locations outside of the California regions identified by the traceback investigation does not appear to be related to the current outbreak.

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There is no recommendation for consumers or retailers to avoid using romaine lettuce that is certain to have been harvested from areas outside of the Central Coast growing regions of northern and central California. For example, romaine lettuce harvested from areas that include, but are not limited to the desert growing region near Yuma, the California desert growing region near Imperial County and Riverside County, the state of Florida, and Mexico, does not appear to be related to the current outbreak. Additionally, there is no evidence hydroponically- and greenhouse-grown romaine is related to the current outbreak.

During this new stage of the investigation, it is vital that consumers and retailers have an easy way to identify romaine lettuce by both harvest date and harvest location. Labeling with this information on each bag of romaine or signage in stores where labels are not an option would easily differentiate for consumers romaine from unaffected growing regions.

Recommendation:

Based on discussions with producers and distributors, romaine lettuce entering the market will now be labeled with a harvest location and a harvest date or labeled as being hydroponically- or greenhouse-grown. If it does not have this information, you should not eat or use it.

If romaine lettuce does have this labeling information, we advise avoiding any product from the Central Coast growing regions of northern and central California. Romaine lettuce from outside those regions need not be avoided.

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.

Eby-Brown suppliers have communicated that new shipments will be labeled with a harvest location/harvest date and we expect new shipments to arrive to our plants between 12/5 and 12/7:

685297	CASTELLINI SALAD BOWL CHXN CAESAR 7.5Z
685289	CASTELLINI SALAD BOWL COBB 7.25Z
231704	CLUB CHEF ROMA LETTUCE CHOPPED 2LB
163279	CLUB CHEF VEG LETTUCE ROMAINE/ICEBRG 5LB
176222	CUT FRUIT EXP SALAD CEASAR 9Z
176230	CUT FRUIT EXP SALAD CHEF 11Z
176214	CUT FRUIT EXP SALAD COBB 10.5Z

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