

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Environmental Health Section

EHS Circular Letter #2018-02a

UPDATED

To: Local Health Departments

From: Tracey Weeks, MS, RS
Supervisor, Food Protection Program

Date: April 20, 2018,

Subject: Multi-State *E. coli* O157 Outbreak Associated with Romaine Lettuce

Based on new information obtained during the investigation of the multi-state *E.coli* O157 outbreak associated with romaine lettuce, CDC has expanded their consumer advice to include **whole heads and hearts of romaine lettuce**, in addition to chopped romaine, and salads and salad mixes containing romaine, from the Yuma, Arizona growing region. See page 2 for CDC's specific advice.

Local health departments are advised to share this updated information with food establishments to inform them of CDC's updated advice not to serve romaine lettuce unless they are sure it did not originate from the Yuma, Arizona growing area.

The investigation is ongoing and the number of cases have increase, however the number of Connecticut cases remains at 2.

More specific information will be provided when it becomes available. Inquiries from consumers who believe they may be ill from consuming romaine lettuce should contact their medical provider.

Additional Information

FDA: <https://www.fda.gov/food/recallsoutbreaksemergencies/outbreaks/ucm604254.htm>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2018/o157h7-04-18/index.html>



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From the CDC website 4/20/18

What's New?

- Based on new information, CDC is expanding its warning to consumers to cover **all** types of romaine lettuce from the Yuma, Arizona growing region. This warning now includes whole heads and hearts of romaine lettuce, in addition to chopped romaine and salads and salad mixes containing romaine.
- Do not buy or eat romaine lettuce at a grocery store or restaurant unless you can confirm it is not from the Yuma, Arizona, growing region.
- Unless the source of the product is known, consumers anywhere in the United States who have any store-bought romaine lettuce at home should not eat it and should throw it away, even if some of it was eaten and no one has gotten sick. Product labels often do not identify growing regions; so, throw out any romaine lettuce if you're uncertain about where it was grown. This includes whole heads and hearts of romaine, chopped romaine, and salads and salad mixes containing romaine lettuce. If you do not know if the lettuce is romaine, do not eat it and throw it away.
- Restaurants and retailers should not serve or sell any romaine lettuce from the Yuma, Arizona growing region.
- The expanded warning is based on information from newly reported illnesses in Alaska. Ill people in Alaska reported eating lettuce from whole heads of romaine lettuce from the Yuma, Arizona growing region.