

ROMAINE LETTUCE CONSUMER ADVISORY

Press Release

The Center for Disease Control (CDC), public health and regulatory officials in several states, Canada, and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are investigating a multistate outbreak of Shiga toxin producing Escherichia coli (E coli) infections linked to romaine lettuce. This includes whole heads of romaine lettuce, hearts of romaine, and bags and boxes of pre-cut lettuce and salad mixes that contain romaine, including baby romaine, spring mix, and Caesar salad. At this time, no common grower, supplier, distributor, or brand of romaine lettuce has been identified.

The CDC is advising that U.S. consumers not eat any romaine lettuce and that no romaine lettuce should be served or sold until more is learned about the outbreak. Consumers who have any type of romaine lettuce in their home should not eat it and should throw it away, even if some of it was eaten and no one has gotten sick. If you are unsure if the lettuce is romaine or whether a salad mix contains romaine, it should not be eaten and should be thrown away. This investigation is ongoing and the advice will be updated as more information becomes available.

The Fayette County School Nutrition Department has destroyed all romaine lettuce products. Please be assured that we have made every effort to offer safe, nutritious food to the students and staff in the district and will continue to do so. Our cafeterias will be serving iceberg salad mix as soon as the supply returns to a normal level.

Parents or students with concerns may contact the School Nutrition Department at (770) 460-3990, Extension 480