



CDC Alert on Outbreak of *E. coli* infections Linked to Romaine Lettuce

November 20, 2018

The US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is advising US consumers not eat any romaine lettuce, and retailers and restaurants not serve or sell any, until more is learned about the outbreak. This investigation is ongoing and the advice will be updated as more information is available.

Notice to our Retail and Foodservice Partners:

- **Out of an abundance of caution, Peirone Produce Co will immediately stop shipment of all romaine and romaine containing salads to customers.**
- **Also, Mary's Harvest will stop shipment of all romaine and romaine containing salads to customers immediately.**
- **Following the CDC recommendation below, we feel that it would be prudent for you to not serve or sell any romaine lettuce, including salads and salad mixes containing romaine.**
- **No product recall is associated with this alert. Until a recall is announced, no product credit will be issued and Peirone Produce will not be taking back any delivered romaine or salad mixes containing romaine.**
- **In storage, romaine and salads containing romaine should be segregated from all other foods.**
- **To help the spread of information, we have included portions of the CDC Alert below for you and your customers. If you would like more information on this alert, it can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2018/o157h7-11-18/index.html>**

Notice to Consumers:

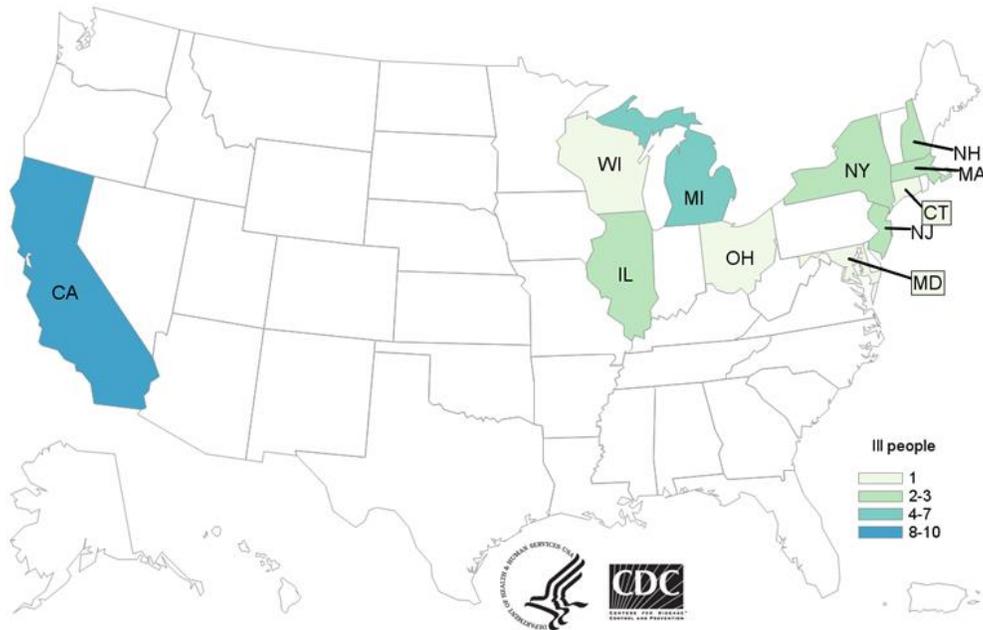
- CDC is advising that consumers do not eat **any** romaine lettuce because no common grower, supplier, distributor, or brand of romaine lettuce has been identified.
- Restaurants and retailers should not serve or sell any romaine lettuce, including salads and salad mixes containing romaine.
- Consumers 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.
 - This advice includes all types or uses of romaine lettuce, such as whole heads of romaine, hearts of romaine, and bags and boxes of precut lettuce and salad mixes that contain romaine, including baby romaine, spring mix, and Caesar salad.
 - If you do not know if the lettuce is romaine or whether a salad mix contains romaine, do not eat it and throw it away.
 - Wash and sanitize drawers or shelves in refrigerators where romaine was stored.
- Take action if you have symptoms of an *E. coli* infection:
 - Talk to your healthcare provider.
 - Write down what you ate in the week before you started to get sick.
 - Report your illness to the health department.
 - Assist public health investigators by answering questions about your illness.

Outbreak Information:

- Thirty-two people infected with the outbreak strain of *E. coli* O157:H7 have been reported from 11 states.
 - Illnesses started on dates ranging from October 8, 2018 to October 31, 2018.

At a Glance:

Reported Cases: 32
States: 11
Hospitalizations: 13
Deaths: 0
Recall: No



- The Public Health Agency of Canada has identified 18 ill people infected in Ontario and Quebec.
- Ill people in this outbreak were infected from *E. coli* bacteria with the same DNA fingerprint as the *E. coli* strain isolated from ill people in a 2017 outbreak linked to leafy greens in the United States and to romaine lettuce in Canada.
- The current outbreak is not related to a recent multistate outbreak of *E. coli* O157:H7 infections linked to romaine lettuce from earlier this year.