



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

EHS Circular Letter #2010-29

To: Local Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians
Certified Food Inspectors

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

Date: May 7, 2010

Subject: **Recall of Freshway Foods Products containing Romaine Lettuce**

Freshway Foods, Sidney, Ohio, is voluntarily recalling products containing romaine lettuce that were sold under the Freshway and Imperial Sysco brands because they have the potential to be contaminated with *Escherichia coli* O145. The recall was initiated as a result of a multistate outbreak investigation of illness involving cases in three states.

The romaine lettuce products in question may have been sold to wholesalers and food service outlets in Connecticut including restaurants and institutions (hospitals, public and private schools, corporate cafeterias, markets, etc.). Freshway reported that they are contacting all facilities they think may have received product with instructions to check for the specific recalled lettuce.

The recalled romaine lettuce products have a **use by date of May 12 or earlier**. Please refer to the attached FDA press release for specific product recall information.

As of today, there have not been any confirmed cases of illness in Connecticut associated with consuming the lettuce although New York, Ohio, and Michigan have reported 19 confirmed and 10 probable cases.

The Department of Consumer Protection is aware of the recall and may be contacted at (860) 713-6160 for additional distribution information and assistance.

You are urged to share the above information with the retail and food service establishments in your jurisdiction that are likely to use the recalled products and to prioritize follow-up with establishments that serve highly susceptible populations especially in schools, day care, health care, elderly feeding programs, etc.

Consumers reporting illness should be advised to contact their primary care physician for proper follow-up and treatment. Local health department staff that receive calls from consumers with possible foodborne illness after consumption of this product should follow the usual procedure of completing the 3-page Alert form and faxing it to the FPP within 24 hours at (860) 509-8071.

cc: Suzanne Blancaflor, MS, Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH
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