



Environmental
Health

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

Advisory	Recall of Metromint Bottled Flavored Water
Principal Investigator:	Jerry LeMoine
Date:	December 5, 2007
Release #:	2007-Flavored Water-1

INCIDENT

- The California Department of Public Health announced today that Soma Beverage Co., LLC, of San Francisco is voluntarily recalling Metromint brand flavored water because it may be contaminated with a bacterium called *Bacillus cereus*, a microorganism that may cause vomiting or diarrhea. There have been no confirmed illnesses in California associated with this product to date. There is an illness complaint in Illinois that is possibly linked to consumption of this product.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACTION

- Santa Cruz County Environmental Health is contacting local retail outlets that may stock the recalled products to ensure that they are removed from the sales shelves.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Division is warning consumers not to drink the recalled brands of "Metromint" brand of flavored, bottled water. Santa Cruz County consumers in possession of this recalled product should contact the local Environmental Health office at (831) 454-2022. Consumers with questions about the recall should call (415) 979-0781, Ext.101. Individuals who have become ill from drinking the product should contact their health care provider for evaluation and for appropriate diagnostic laboratory cultures.

INFORMATION

- The recalled products include Metromint brand flavored water (Peppermint, Spearmint, Oranagemint and Lemonmint) with a "Best Before" date prior to 2008/12/21 (Dec. 21, 2008). The "best Before" date is on the shoulder of the bottle. The products were packaged in clear plastic 16.9-ounce bottles with a black M on the front and the lettering "KSA" in a rectangle located on back of the bottle in the lower right-hand corner.
- The products were sold at the following locations in Northern California: Albertson's, Andronico's, Berkeley Bowl, BevMo!, Brown and Cole, Central Markets, Cost Plus World Market, Draeger's, Elephant Pharmacy, Fiesta Markets, Fred Meyer, Food Emporium, Haggen, Harmon's (UT), Lunardi's, Marlene's, Super Supplements, Mollie Stone's, New Seasons, PCC, Pharmaca, PW Markets, QFD,



Public Health
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- **Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- **Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- **Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Rosauers, Safeway, Thriftway, Top Foods, Town and Country, Uwajimaya, Whole Foods Market, Wild Oaks Market, Yokes and Zupans.

- Illness caused by *Bacillus cereus* may be either a vomiting or a diarrheal type. The vomiting type is characterized by nausea and vomiting within 30 minutes to six hours after consumption of contaminated foods. Duration of symptoms is generally less than 24 hours. The diarrheal type usually includes onset of abdominal cramps and watery diarrhea six to 15 hours after consumption of contaminated food. Symptoms may last for 24 to 48 hours. Thorough and frequent hand washing will help to reduce the spread of the organism.

www.santacruzhealth.org/alerts for informational updates and other alerts