



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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DISEASE CONTROL UNIT

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

New Information on E. coli Outbreak Associated with Spinach Sept. 18, 2006

Communicable Disease:	E. coli 0157:H7
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On Sunday, Sept. 17, 2006, the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) advised consumers to avoid eating *any* fresh spinach or salad blends containing fresh spinach that are consumed raw. This advisory means consumers should avoid eating spinach sold in fresh bunches as well as those sold in bags.

Santa Cruz County Public Health Department-Environmental Health Division staff are continuing to work with local food service vendors and the local restaurant association to recall any remaining bagged and fresh spinach from their inventories. All parties involved are communicating and cooperating as new information becomes available.

INCIDENT

As of Sept. 17, 2006, 109 persons infected with the outbreak strain of E. coli 0157:H7 have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) from 19 states. Dates of illness onset ranged from August 2 to Sept. 9, 2006. California has reported one case.

ADVICE FOR CONSUMERS

- Currently, the FDA has advised consumers to avoid eating *any* fresh spinach or spinach blends containing fresh spinach that are consumed raw, even spinach that is not bagged.
- Persons who develop diarrhea after consuming fresh spinach or salad blends containing fresh spinach, are urged to contact their health care provider.

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.