

Food Safety Recall: A State Perspective

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Outbreak Strain Identified in....



The data and findings contained in this presentation are preliminary and subject to change

FDA recalled 3,916 peanut butter-containing products...and counting as of June 12, 2009



Broad in Scope...

- This was an **ingredient-driven outbreak**, in which a contaminated ingredient affected many different products that are distributed through multiple channels and consumed in multiple settings.

A Wide Array of Products Implicated

- Peanut butter and peanut paste are common ingredients in cookies, crackers, cereal, candy, ice cream, pet treats, and other foods.

Peanut butter—unsafe?

- *Salmonella* can survive in peanut butter products that receive typical food processing temperatures.
- Questionable environmental health inspection findings.

Potential for Additional Illnesses

- **Illnesses will continue to occur if people eat recalled peanut butter-containing products**
- **Long shelf lives, still in households**
- **Consumers should check for recalled products and discard them**

Intervention

Retailers

- Stop selling recalled products.

Directors of Institutions and Food Service Establishments

- Ensure that they are not serving recalled products.

Consumer Advice

- Consumers should avoid eating recalled products that contain peanut butter, including Austin and Keebler brand peanut butter crackers.
- Major national brands of jarred peanut butter found in grocery stores are NOT on the Peanut Corporation of America (PCA) recall list.
- Any product that is on the recall list should be disposed of in a safe manner. Any recalled product should be thrown away to prevent *Salmonella* infections in humans, pets, or other animals. This product should be disposed of in a closed plastic bag and placed in a sealed trash can to prevent people or animals, including wild animals, from eating it.
- Consumers also should avoid eating products made with peanut butter, peanut paste, or other peanut-containing products if they are unsure whether these products have been recalled.
- For more information about this outbreak and your pet, you may visit [Questions and Answers Related to the Salmonella Typhimurium Outbreak and Pets.](#)

Consumer Advice (continued)

- For more information about this outbreak and your pet, you may visit [Questions and Answers Related to the Salmonella Typhimurium Outbreak and Pets.](#)
- To determine whether a product has been recalled, consumers can search the list of recalled products at the [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) website](#) or telephone the company that distributed the product at the phone number on the package.
- Consumers without internet access can telephone 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for product recall information from the FDA website and for other information on salmonellosis.
- Persons who think they might have become ill from eating peanut butter or peanut-containing products should consult their health-care providers.
- Infants, elderly persons, and persons with impaired immune systems are more likely than others to develop severe illness.

Source: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

RUTGERS STUDY FINDS MANY CONSUMERS IGNORE FOOD PRODUCT RECALLS

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – Rutgers' Food Policy Institute (FPI) released a study today showing that many Americans fail to check their homes for recalled food products. Only about 60 percent of the studied sample reported *ever* having looked for recalled food in their homes, and only 10 percent said they had ever found a recalled food product.

The study was based on a survey of 1,101 Americans interviewed by telephone from Aug. 4 to Sept. 24, 2008. The study can be downloaded at www.foodpolicy.rutgers.edu.

Most respondents also said they pay a great deal of attention to food recalls and, when they learn about them, they tell many other people. But 40 percent of these consumers think the foods they purchase are less likely to be recalled than those purchased by others, appearing to believe that food recalls just don't apply to them.

"Despite widespread awareness of recent foodborne illness outbreaks, and a sense that the number of food recalls is increasing, about half of Americans say that food recalls have had no impact on their lives," said psychologist William K. Hallman, a professor of human ecology at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences.

"Getting consumers to pay attention to news about recalls isn't the hard part but getting them to take

What is a Food Recall? (FDA)

“Recalls are actions taken by a firm to remove a product from the market. Recalls may be conducted on a firm's own initiative, by FDA request, or by FDA order under statutory authority.”