



DALLAS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

2377 North Stemmons Freeway
Dallas, Texas 75207-2710
214-819-6329 office
214-819-6095 fax

ZACHARY THOMPSON
DIRECTOR

DR. STEVE WILSON
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Contact: Blanca Cantu – 214-819-6329
214-394-8109

Zachary Thompson – 214-755-9299

For Immediate Release – September 16, 2011

Recalled cantaloupe linked to listeria outbreak distributed in Dallas-area

Dallas County Health and Human Services officials are advising Dallas County residents not to consume Rocky Ford cantaloupes shipped from Jensen Farms because they could have possibly been contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, a bacterium that can cause severe illness.

The potential health threat prompted the recall of the cantaloupes from Jensen Farms in Colorado, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

At least 22 illnesses in the United States have been linked to Rocky Ford cantaloupe from Jensen Farms, including at least two people from Texas. No cases of listeriosis in Dallas County have yet been confirmed to be linked to this multistate investigation.

Shipments of these particular cantaloupes were made between July 29, 2011 and Sept. 10, 2011 and distributed to 17 states, including Texas.

It has now been confirmed that some of the recalled Jensen Farms cantaloupes have been distributed to Dallas-area retailers within the last month.

A distribution list has not yet been released.

Residents are being advised to immediately discard any Rocky Ford cantaloupe shipped from Jensen Farms that may have recently been purchased. It is also recommended that even if some of the cantaloupe has been eaten without causing illness, the rest should also be discarded immediately.

These cantaloupes can be identified by a green and white sticker that reads: Product of USA-Frontera Produce-Colorado Fresh-Rocky Ford-Cantaloupe or a gray, yellow and green sticker that reads: Jensen Farms-Sweet Rocky Fords.

For cantaloupe without a sticker, consumers should call the retail store where they purchased the fruit to find out where the product was shipped from.

Texas-grown cantaloupes have not been linked to the illnesses and were not included in the recall.

A person with listeriosis typically has diarrhea or other gastrointestinal symptoms, followed by fever and muscle aches. Severe cases of listeriosis can be life-threatening. Following an infection, symptoms will usually develop within three weeks.

Anyone who has recently consumed Rocky Ford cantaloupe and developed these symptoms should seek medical attention.

Pregnant women, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems have a greater risk of illness after being exposed to foods contaminated with listeria.

For more information, residents can visit

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm271899.htm>.

###