



Environmental
Health

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

701 Ocean St., Room 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
TELEPHONE: (831) 454-2022 FAX: (831) 454-3128 TDD: (831) 454-4123

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

Advisory	Recall of Bagged Fresh Spinach
Principal Investigator:	Jerry LeMoine
Date:	August 30, 2007
Release #:	2007-spinach-1

INCIDENT

- The United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) announced on August 28, That Metz Fresh, LLC is voluntarily recalling bagged spinach after routine company conducted testing resulted in a positive test for *Salmonella*. There have been no reports of illness related to this spinach.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACTION

- Santa Cruz County Environmental Health is communicating with appropriate State agencies involved in investigation and tracking of the recall notification and will take any further local action as warranted. According to USFDA, Metz Fresh has already tracked, located and put 'holds' on the vast majority of the cartons of spinach affected. That spinach will not be released into the marketplace

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Division is warning consumers not to eat the recalled brands of "Metz Fresh" brand of fresh, bagged spinach. Institutional and commercial food facilities may have also received this product and are strongly advised to check their inventory for any of the recalled product. Consumers in possession of this recalled spinach should dispose of the product or return it to the point of purchase. Consumers with questions about the recall should call (831) 386-1018

INFORMATION

- The spinach is distributed under the label Metz Fresh, in both retail and food service packages. These include 10 and 16 oz bags as well as 4-2.5 lb. and 4 lb. cartons. The only Metz Fresh product affected is spinach that bears the tracking codes 12208114, 12208214 and 12208314. It was distributed in the continental United States and Canada. *Salmonella* is a common food borne pathogen that can cause severe illnesses, including fever, abdominal cramps and diarrhea. While most individuals recover in three to five days without medical intervention, the infection can be life-threatening to young children, the elderly and those with compromised immune systems. Consumers with any of these symptoms should call their physician.

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



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.