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SUBJECT: Advisory on romaine lettuce

Date Issued: 20 November 2018

Today, the CDC and FDA reported a new outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing E. coli O157:H7 infections. The outbreak started in early October 2018, and has resulted in 32 cases in 11 states, with 13 hospitalizations to date. No deaths have been reported.

The current investigation suggests romaine lettuce contaminated with Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* O157:H7 is causing the illnesses. Consumers are advised not to eat any romaine lettuce such as whole heads, hearts, bags or boxes of precut lettuce or salad mixes that contain romaine, including baby romaine, spring mix, and Caesar salad. Retailers, restaurants, and other food service operators should not sell or serve any romaine lettuce.

A common grower, supplier, distributor or brand has not been identified. DLA Troop Support cannot direct product disposition or vendor credit. However, withholding sales or service of any product is highly recommended.

Food contaminated with Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* may not look or smell spoiled, but can still cause illness. Typical signs of illness include severe stomach cramps, diarrhea (often bloody), and vomiting. Most people get better within 5 to 7 days. Some infections are very mild, but others are severe and can cause permanent kidney damage, or even death.

Consumers should always practice safe food handling and preparation measures. It is recommended to wash hands, utensils, and surfaces with hot, soapy water before and after handling food.

Additional Information on this outbreak can be found on the CDC website https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2018/o157h7-11-18/index.html and the FDA website https://www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm626330.htm.

The Point of Contact for this advisory message is the Food Safety Office, DLA-Troop Support, and can be reached at email: dscpconssafofc@dla.mil.

//Signed//
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