

UNCLAS

SUBJECT: Closure of ALFOODACT 2018-036: Product Advisory on romaine lettuce from the Yuma Arizona growing region

Date Issued: 25 May 2018

Information collected to date indicates that romaine lettuce from the Yuma Arizona growing region could have been contaminated with Shiga toxin-producing E. coli O157:H7 and made people sick. A total of 172 cases were reported across 32 states. One person died from the infection, and 75 were hospitalized.

According to the FDA, the last shipments of romaine lettuce from the Yuma growing region were harvested on April 16, 2018 and the harvest season is over. It is unlikely that any romaine lettuce from the Yuma growing region is still available in people's homes, stores, or restaurants due to its 21-day shelf life.

Due to this timeline, romaine lettuce is deemed safe for procurement and consumption from all DoD approved sources and their suppliers. Sites no longer need to discard product from an unknown origin as was originally advised.

Although this recent outbreak likely started at the grower/supplier level, there are steps for everyone to take that will keep fruits and vegetables safer for consumption:

- Wash your hands before and after preparing fruits and vegetables.
- Wash or scrub all fruits and vegetables under running water before eating, cutting, or cooking. Fruits and vegetables labeled "prewashed" do not need to be washed again at home.
- Use a separate cutting board for fruits and vegetables that is never used for cutting or preparing raw meats, poultry, or seafood.
- Store fruits and vegetables away from, and not next to or below, raw meat, poultry, or seafood.

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](mailto:dscpconssafofc@dla.mil).

//Signed//

MAJ Janas Gray  
Food Safety Officer  
DLA Troop Support - Subsistence  
Defense Logistics Agency-Troop Support  
700 Robbins Street  
Philadelphia, PA. 19111  
[janas.gray@dla.mil](mailto:janas.gray@dla.mil)  
Office: 215-737-2934  
DSN: 444-2934; Country Prefix (312)