

This is an Official DPHHS HAN Advisory

Distributed via the DPHHS Health Alert Network (HAN) System
Thursday February 15, 2007 16:00 MT (4:00 PM MST)

SUBJECT: FDA Consumption Warning – Peanut Butter and Salmonella Tennessee

The Food and Drug Administration issued a press release February 14, 2007 advising consumers not to eat Peter Pan and Great Value peanut butter with a product code on the lid that begins with the number "2111" due to the risk of contamination with *Salmonella* Tennessee. The affected jars were made by ConAgra in a single facility in Sylvester, GA. Great Value peanut butter made by other manufacturers is not affected. Consumers may contact ConAgra at 866-344-6970 for instructions about returning product for a refund.

CDC, state health departments, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) are investigating an outbreak of an illness caused by Salmonella Tennessee. To date, CDC has identified 288 patients from 39 states with dates of onset ranging from August 1, 2006 to January 21, 2007. Thirty-one patients have been hospitalized and there have been no reported deaths.

Montana has two confirmed cases, an 85 year old woman from Yellowstone County diagnosed in November 2006 and a 63 year old male from Silver Bow County diagnosed in January 2007. An investigation is currently underway to determine whether these cases ate the implicated food product.

Most persons infected with Salmonella develop diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps 12 to 72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days and most persons recover without treatment. However, in some persons the diarrhea may be so severe that the patient needs to be hospitalized. The elderly, infants, and those with impaired immune systems are most likely to have a severe illness.

Individuals who have recently eaten this peanut butter brand and ARE ill with a diarrheal illness should consult their health care provider for diagnosis/appropriate laboratory testing immediately. Stool specimens may be sent directly to the state public health laboratory for enteric panel culture. If they still have the jar of peanut butter, they should keep it in a safe place where no one will consume its contents (in a plastic bag at room temperature). If the person is diagnosed with Salmonella Tennessee, he/she will be contacted by the health department to obtain the peanut butter for culture. People should be advised NOT to take the peanut butter to their health care provider or local health department until requested to do so.

Individuals who are NOT ill with a diarrheal illness after having eaten this peanut butter or have not eaten this peanut butter should destroy the product, after saving the lid. For a full refund, consumers must return the Peter Pan Peanut Butter or Great Value Peanut Butter product lid along with their name and mailing address to ConAgra Foods, P.O. Box 3768, Omaha, NE 68103.

Consumers with questions or concerns about the recall can call the 24-hour toll-free hotline at 866-344-6970. For more information about salmonella, visit www.cdc.gov.

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The goal of Montana's Health Alert Network is to transmit information to local public health authorities as quickly as possible, and assign a suitable priority to the message that is sensitive to the impact of a health-related event providing information of immediate of utility relative to the public health and safety of Montanans. For questions or comments relative to Montana's HAN system you may contact the Montana State HAN Coordinator Gerry Wheat at <<mailto:gwhheat@mt.gov>>

Categories of Health Alert messages:

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.

Info Service Message: provides general information regarding a situation or opportunity; does not typically require immediate action.

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