

Health Alert

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Aunt Mid's suspends processing and sale of iceberg lettuce product line in United States

Aunt Mid's Produce Company has voluntarily suspended any processing and sale of its iceberg lettuce product line throughout the United States.

The Illinois Department of Public Health has identified Aunt Mid's Produce Company as the distributor of iceberg lettuce to a restaurant in Illinois where six individuals with E coli O157 dined during late August -mid September.

The Michigan Department of Community Health has also identified Aunt Mid's Produce Company as one of the wholesale processors who sold institutional-sized iceberg lettuce product to the establishments that served 26 individuals Michigan diagnosed with E coli O157:H7 infection.

Based on this preliminary information, IDPH is advising Illinois facilities that in addition to not purchasing iceberg lettuce distributed by Aunt Mid's, they should also not use of Aunt Mid's lettuce that has already been purchased until additional, definitive information from ongoing investigations, including produce testing and traceback, becomes available.

At this time, information does not indicate that lettuce has been sold at retail grocery stores. E. coli O157 is a virulent strain of *E. coli*. It causes diarrhea, often with bloody stools.

Although most healthy adults can recover completely within a week, some people can develop a form of kidney failure called Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS). This condition can lead to serious kidney damage and even death.

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is working with the Centers for Disease Control laboratory to test persons suspected of being linked to this outbreak. Health care providers who suspect E coli O157 infection should order shiga toxin testing and cultures to detect this organism, and report suspect cases to their local health department.

Everyone, Everywhere, Everyday

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