



Department of Health  
Department of Agriculture

Mike DeWine, Governor  
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Amy Acton, MD, MPH, Director, Ohio Department of Health  
Dorothy Pelanda, Director, Ohio Department of Agriculture

DATE: December 9, 2019

TO: Health Commissioners, Directors of Environmental Health and Interested Parties

RE: Recall Announcement (ODA/ODH) 2019-204

**Alert: FDA warns against eating Fresh Express brand Sunflower Crisp Chopped Salad Kits**

**Recommendation**

FDA, CDC, U.S. state health authorities and Canadian federal partners are investigating an outbreak of illnesses in the U.S. and Canada caused by *E. coli* O157:H7. Epidemiologic information indicates that Fresh Express brand Sunflower Crisp Chopped Salad Kits are a likely source of this outbreak.

**Consumers:**

Consumers should not eat Fresh Express brand Sunflower Crisp Chopped Salad Kits with UPC 0 71279 30906 4, beginning with lot code Z, and a best before date up to and including 07DEC19.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has also issued this guidance to consumers in Canada.

**Restaurants and Retailers:**

Restaurants and retailers should not serve or sell Fresh Express brand Sunflower Crisp Chopped Salad Kits with UPC 0 71279 30906 4, beginning with lot code Z, and a best before date up to and including 07DEC19.

**Suppliers and Distributors:**

Suppliers, distributors and others in the supply chain should not ship or sell Fresh Express brand Sunflower Crisp Chopped Salad Kits with UPC 0 71279 30906 4, beginning with lot code Z, and a best before date up to and including 07DEC19.

**Background**

According to the CDC, as of December 9, 2019, eight people infected with this outbreak strain of *E. coli* O157:H7 have been reported from three states. The case patients report that illnesses started on dates ranging from November 5, 2019 to November 15, 2019. This outbreak strain found in case patients is different from the outbreak strain of the larger *E. coli* O157:H7 [outbreak linked to romaine](#) from the Salinas, California growing region.

Preliminary information indicates that the romaine lettuce in the salad kits eaten by some sick people may have contained romaine from the Salinas growing region, though the romaine and other ingredients in the kit may have come from another growing region as well.

Authorities are investigating the source of the ingredients in the kits and are trying to determine which ingredient may have been contaminated.

Further information will be provided as the investigation progresses.