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# News Release

Sept. 16, 2011

## Second Listeriosis Death From Contaminated Cantaloupes Outbreak Traced to Colorado Farm; 2 Dead, 20 Hospitalized in 7 States

-- Two persons have died of listeriosis as the outbreak from contaminated cantaloupes has spread to seven states. Including the two deaths, 22 people have been sickened.

The CDC, FDA, and Colorado health authorities have traced the outbreak to **Jensen Farms of Holly, Colo.** The state of Colorado has warned people to avoid cantaloupes from the entire region.

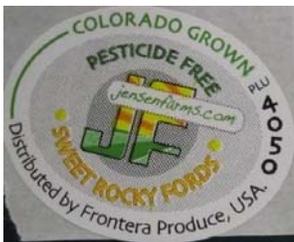
The cantaloupes may still be available in grocery stores. Jensen Farms is requesting any consumer that may have one of these cantaloupes to please destroy the products.

**September 14, 2011 Jensen Farms** have voluntarily recalled cantaloupes. The whole cantaloupes were shipped between **July 29 and Sept. 10** to states listed below:

- Arizona
- Colorado
- Illinois
- Kansas
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Wyoming

The whole cantaloupes may have either of two stickers:

1. A green and white sticker reads: Product of USA -- Frontera Produce -- Colorado Fresh -- Rocky Ford
2. A gray, yellow, and green sticker that reads: Jensen Farms -- Sweet Rocky Fords



- If you encounter unlabeled cantaloupes, you should ask your grocer where it came from.
- If you have one of the recalled cantaloupes, be sure to dispose of it in a closed plastic bag in a sealed trash can to prevent people or animals from eating them.
- If you've eaten some of a recalled cantaloupe and have not become sick, do not assume the cantaloupe is safe. Dispose of it immediately.
- The two deaths linked to the outbreak strain of *Listeria* were in Colorado and New Mexico. Twelve cases have been reported in Colorado, one in Indiana, one in Nebraska, four in New Mexico, one in Oklahoma, two in Texas, and one in West Virginia.
- Cases reported so far range in age from 38 to 96 years. Most of those sickened in the outbreak are over 60 years old.

### Listeriosis Symptoms

Listeriosis usually begins with diarrhea or other intestinal symptoms. Patients soon develop fever and muscle aches. What happens next depends on a person's risk factors:

Although listeriosis is a food-borne illness, symptomatic disease usually means the bacteria have escaped the digestive tract and are spreading throughout the body.

Listeriosis sometimes results in fatal meningitis or encephalitis. Of the estimated 1,600 U.S. cases of listeriosis each year, there are 260 deaths.

While pregnant women usually get a mild flu-like illness, *Listeria* infection can cause miscarriage, stillbirth, premature delivery, or fatal infection of the newborn.

Other adults may develop headache, stiff neck, mental confusion, loss of balance, and convulsions.

Foods typically linked to listeriosis are deli meats, hot dogs, and soft cheeses made with unpasteurized milk. Produce is less often linked to outbreaks, although *Listeria* occurs in soil and water.

*Listeria* are killed by cooking, but can grow and multiply in refrigerators.

Consumers with questions may contact Jensen Farms via email at [recall@rfordcantaloupe.com](mailto:recall@rfordcantaloupe.com) or phone **1-800-267-4561 between the hours of 9am and 4pm MST**.

Check the original announcement at the FDA web page. <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm271879.htm> An additional Summary Report Form has been added to the EHOg.

Please use either of the report form tools or an email summary to report results of your follow-up. The forms can be accessed in the EHOg at <http://health.mo.gov/atoz/ehog/index.php>.

**If you have any questions regarding this listserve, please contact Nancy Beyer at (573)751-6095 or [Nancy.Beyer@health.mo.gov](mailto:Nancy.Beyer@health.mo.gov) Bureau of Environmental Health Services.**