

Important Information About Tomatoes and the FDPIR Fresh Produce Program

The Food and Drug Administration alerted consumers that an outbreak of *Salmonella* appears to be linked to certain types of raw red tomatoes:

- raw red plum tomatoes;
- raw red Roma tomatoes;
- raw round red tomatoes; and
- products containing raw red tomatoes.

Cherry tomatoes, grape tomatoes, tomatoes sold with the vine still attached, and tomatoes grown at home are not involved in the outbreak. Additionally, as the FDA investigates, they are declaring that tomatoes from specific countries, states, and counties are not involved in the outbreak and can be safely consumed. The current version of that list can be found at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html>.

At this time, there are no known reports of illness linked to any tomatoes distributed by the Department of Defense (DoD) under FNS' Fresh Produce Programs. Currently DoD is only purchasing tomatoes from locations that have been approved by FDA.

If Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) or State agencies have any concerns about the tomatoes they have on hand from previous shipments, they should contact Pat Scott (215-737-3601) or Gail Labroschiano (215-737-8760) at DoD Defense Supply Center Philadelphia or their normal DoD points of contact.

If ITOs/State agencies received tomatoes from DoD that are not from approved locations, they should contact the vendor to have the tomato order replaced with tomatoes from FDA approved locations, if available, or have a credit for the returned tomato order applied to the appropriate billing.

As the investigation is proceeding rapidly, new information is available almost daily. For the latest updates, please check:

<http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/saintpaul/>

The FDA has provided the following advice to consumers at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/tomatqa.html>.