

Health **FAX**

HEALTH ALERT: Food Recall of Certain Salad Products due to Possible Contamination with *Listeria monocytogenes*

Attention: **Hospital Infection Control Practitioners, Long Term Care Homes, Rest and Retirement Homes, and Child Care Centres**

Date: **Wednesday, May 23, 2012**

Over the holiday weekend, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) issued a series of alerts regarding certain salad products that may contain *Listeria monocytogenes* bacteria, which are being voluntarily recalled from the marketplace. This is a part of the larger expanded recall of retail and foodservice salads initiated by River Ranch Fresh Foods, LLC, California, USA with distribution in Canada.

On May 19th, 20th and 21st CFIA health hazard alerts warned the public as well as importers, distributors, retailers and food service establishments such as hotels, restaurants, cafeterias, hospitals and nursing homes not to consume these salad products, or foods made with these products, as they may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*.

The salad products are distributed under several brand names including Compliments, River Ranch, Sysco Natural Brand, and Sensations Brand. The complete listing of the alerts, expanded lists of the affected products and lot codes, and any further updates can be found at the CFIA website:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/reclarapp/2012/20120520e.shtml> , and

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/reclarapp/2012/20120520e.shtml>

A copy of this information should be directed to Dietary Departments to ensure that the facility food supply has been checked, and that any affected product is quickly identified and removed from service.

There have been no reported illnesses associated with the consumption of this product at this time.

It is our understanding that these products may have been distributed in Ontario to high risk institutions. We have been requested by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term care to alert you to this product recall. Please forward this information to your Food Services/Dietary Manager in order to check your food service inventories, and to *confirm* that you do not have this product available for your clients, staff and / or patrons.

If you do have this product please immediately remove the product from service or sale, and notify the Public Health Inspector on our Health Connection line, 705-721 7520 or toll free at 1 877 721 7520.

Listeriosis is a rare but potentially serious food-borne illness that can severely affect the elderly, pregnant women and individuals with weakened immune systems. Symptoms may include vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, cramps,

severe headache, constipation and persistent fever. In severe cases, these symptoms may be followed by meningitis encephalitis and/or septicemia, either of which can result in death.

Listeriosis is a reportable and communicable disease. Please report all suspect and confirmed cases of Listeriosis to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Communicable Disease Team at 721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 extension 8809 (after hours at 1-888-225-7851).

Information regarding Listeriosis is also available on the health unit website at:

<http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/DiseaseInformation/CommunicableDiseaseFactSheets/Listeriosis.aspx>