



**FOOD SAFETY ALERT**  
**Friday June 20th, 2008**  
**Update on FDA/ CDC investigations**

**CDC:**

- 552 Cases in 32 States & DC now confirmed with the same genetic fingerprint.
- Texas now reporting 265 cases (included in the 552)
- 56 persons have been hospitalized.
- **Illness onset:** April 10 to **June 10, 2008.**

**FDA:**

- Traceback investigation has led to two potential legs: a number of farms in both Florida and Mexico.
- Extremely unlikely that contamination with the same serotype occurred in two separate places (FL. & Mexico)
- No evidence whatsoever that contamination was deliberate.
- **Likely that contamination occurred somewhere in the distribution chain, rather than on a farm.**
- **FDA has mapped the entire pathway from point of purchase (clusters) to Florida and Mexican farms.**
- FDA/CDC teams will be dispatched this weekend to visit every point in the distribution chains for both potential legs, including warehouses, packing sheds, distribution centers, processors, etc... in an attempt to identify a common denominator &/or source and point of contamination.
- FDA's advice to consumers and industry remains unchanged.
- Texas clusters identified by the TDH; traceback in progress.
- All tomatoes tested to date have been negative for Salmonella Saintpaul.
- Next steps to narrow traceback investigation: Joint investigations with Florida and Mexican officials, sampling of domestic and imported tomatoes and pursuit new tracebacks where clusters are identified.