



**FOOD SAFETY ALERT**  
**Saturday June 7th, 2008**

**FDA/ CDC Expand response**

U.S. federal health agencies today advised consumers across the entire United States to avoid eating round red and Roma/plum tomatoes that were not produced in the following states:

- \* Arkansas;
- \* California;
- \* Georgia;
- \* North Carolina;
- \* South Carolina;
- \* Tennessee;
- \* Texas;
- \* Belgium;
- \* Canada;
- \* Dominican Republic;
- \* Guatemala;
- \* Israel;
- \* Netherlands; and
- \* Puerto Rico.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) do state that consumers can eat and retailers/foodservice operators may sell/serve: cherry tomatoes, grape tomatoes and tomatoes sold with the vine still attached, from any source.

Since mid April, FDA states, there have been 145 reported cases of salmonellosis in 16 states caused by *Salmonella saintpaul*, an uncommon form of *Salmonella*. At least 23 hospitalizations have been reported. Not all illnesses have been linked to tomatoes as yet.

Our collective concern lies with the affected consumers. We also understand that this is disappointing news to buyers and sellers alike. We continue to work with federal agencies to speed the process of finding the exact source of the outbreak. We encourage the industry to use round red and Roma/plum tomatoes from the cleared sources and other types of tomatoes listed above from all sources to satisfy consumer demand and keep tomatoes moving in the marketplace.



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FDA/ CDC Expand response continued.....

The FDA and CDC still characterize the outbreak as ongoing, and have issued information on the outbreak. To see the CDC information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/saintpaul/> <<http://www.mmsend35.com/ls.cfm?r=96780662&sid=4175039&m=504286&u=PMA> &s=<http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/saintpaul/>> . To see the FDA information, visit <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html> <<http://www.mmsend35.com/ls.cfm?r=96780662&sid=4175040&m=504286&u=PMA> &s=<http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html>> .

PMA will continue to monitor this situation and will share with members any new developments as they become available.