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## Four Seasons Produce Business Partners – November 21, 2018

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### RE: Romaine Lettuce Advisory Announcements from the CDC and FDA

Between 2:30pm and 3:30pm on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 the [CDC](#) and [FDA](#) published notices advising that consumers should not eat any romaine lettuce or romaine lettuce products. Retailers and restaurants were not to serve or sell any until the source of the outbreak is determined. This investigation is ongoing and as new developments occur updates will be communicated.

Following those public advisories on Tuesday evening, Four Seasons Produce decided to stop shipping and distribution of all varieties of Romaine Lettuce and Romaine Lettuce products, including packaged salads containing romaine products. Orders taken for Wednesday delivery were outed on those items.

At this time, the origin of the E.coli contamination is unknown. None of our vendors are issuing formal recalls, nor is Four Seasons Produce recalling product already shipped earlier this week. Packaged salad vendors and grower/shippers are also not providing financial protection for the product we have already purchased and shipped or the product that remains in our warehouse.

Attached are the vendor letters we've collected so far.

Food safety matters to all of us. We value our partnership, and if you need more information or have questions regarding this topic, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Steffy  
General Manager | Four Seasons Produce, Inc.  
717-721-2736 | [jonathan@fsproduce.com](mailto:jonathan@fsproduce.com)



1721 San Juan Highway • San Juan Bautista, CA • 95045

November 20, 2018

Hello,

We are closely monitoring the current outbreak of *e. coli* O157:H7 thought to be associated with consumption of romaine lettuce and understand that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has warned consumers not to consume any romaine lettuce. At this time, we have no reason to believe that any of our products are linked to the current outbreak: we have not been contacted by the CDC or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on this matter and a review of our internal pathogen testing and consumer response records reveal nothing out of the ordinary.

As always, the healthfulness, safety, and quality of Earthbound Farm products is our top priority.

We will continue to monitor the evolving situation and provide updates as necessary.

**Jack Chere**

Regional Account Manager

The Danone Foods Company

[1721 San Juan Highway | San Juan Bautista, CA 95045](#)

[C: \(201\) 410 8420](#)

[Jack.Chere@danone.com](mailto:Jack.Chere@danone.com)



November 20, 2018

To Our Valued Customers,

The Food and Drug Administration, along with the Center for Disease Control, and the Public Health Agency of Canada is investigating an outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 illnesses likely linked to romaine lettuce.

This afternoon, the Center for Disease Control issued a Food Safety Alert advising consumers not to eat any romaine lettuce. This advisory includes any type of romaine, such as whole head romaine, hearts of romaine, precut romaine, baby romaine, salad mixes, and Caesar salad.

Consumers who have any type of romaine should not eat it and should throw it away.

Upon learning of this advisory, we removed baby romaine as a component from all blends. Blends that normally contain romaine are: Spring Mix, Spring Mix with Herbs, Spinach and Spring Mix, Baby Romaine, Mixed Greens, Sweet baby Lettuce, 50/50 Blend, Spring Mix with Kale and Sorrento Salad. We are working on methods to clearly notify consumers about the "romaine free" salads, whether that be; point-of-purchase signs, or, revised labels

State Garden is committed to providing our customers with safe and wholesome fresh produce. To that end, we adhere to Good Ag Practices, a Raw Product Test and Hold Program, Good Handling Practices, Good Manufacturing Practices, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points, Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures, and a Finished Goods Test and Hold Program.

Sincerely,

James P. Bullock  
Senior VP Quality, Food Safety, Product Integrity  
State Garden Inc.  
*Olivia's Organics brand*  
*Simple Beginnings brand*  
240 Second Street  
Chelsea, MA 02150  
Phone 617-884-1816 ext. 3145  
Mobile 617-839-3930  
E-mail [jbullock@stategarden.com](mailto:jbullock@stategarden.com)





November 20, 2018

**Dear Valued Customer:**

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Food and Drug Administration have both issued a food safety advisory telling consumers not to eat and retailers and food service organizations not to sell or serve romaine lettuce because it is likely linked to an *E. coli* O157:H7 illness outbreak.

***Fresh Express salad products are not directly implicated in this outbreak event and to-date we have not been contacted by either FDA or CDC as part of their investigations.***

Due to the governmental advisory, Fresh Express anticipates a decline in romaine lettuce consumption and therefore we have temporarily suspended production and shipment of all romaine-containing products.

Because this is an industrywide event affecting all romaine regardless as to where grown or produced, there will be tremendous demand for other lettuce commodities. As a result, there will undoubtedly be a tightening of supply and related shortages. Fresh Express sales and customer service representatives will work closely with you to proactively communicate any shortages to your order the extent possible.

Food safety is our highest priority and we look forward to continuing to work closely with you to provide your shoppers with the safest and highest quality salads and leafy greens available.

Sincerely,

**Fresh Express**



November 20, 2018

Dear Valued Customer:

Earlier today, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention issued a Food Safety Alert describing its investigation into an outbreak of *E. coli* O157:H7 linked to romaine lettuce. The Alert covers all romaine lettuce products, including whole head romaine, hearts of romaine, and bags and boxes of precut lettuce and salad mixes that contain romaine or baby romaine.

The Alert, published at <http://www.cdc.gov> and described at [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov), advises that U.S. customers should not eat any romaine lettuce, and retailers and restaurants should not serve or sell any, until the CDC and FDA learn more about the outbreak.

At this time, Dole Vegetables has not been contacted by either the CDC or the FDA, and, as such, the only information we have regarding this matter is what is contained at the web links provided above. Presently, no common grower, supplier, distributor, production/harvesting area or brand has been identified, and we are not aware of any connection to Dole or to any Dole product.

In response to the Alert, Dole has suspended all harvesting and production of romaine products. We will await further information from FDA or CDC but, at this time, we've suspended all romaine harvesting, production and shipping of products containing romaine until no earlier than Tuesday, November 27.

We are attaching a list of Dole-produced value-added SKU's that include romaine and/or baby romaine to assist you in addressing the CDC Alert.

Dole is committed to providing safe, healthy and quality foods to our customers. As such, we have been and will continue to closely monitor this situation and will share any new information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Tim Stejskal  
*General Manager/Senior Vice President-Sales*  
*Dole Fresh Vegetables, Inc.*

Attachment



DOLE 12/12oz GREENER SELECT #34  
DOLE 6/7oz FIELD GREENS #39  
DOLE 6/12oz AMERICAN BLEND #43  
DOLE 6/5oz SPRING MIX #45  
DOLE 6/9oz ITALIAN BLEND #49  
DOLE 12/10oz CAESAR SALAD #50  
DOLE 6/10oz CAESAR SALAD #53  
DOLE 6/5oz 50/50 BLEND #55  
DOLE 6/10oz LOWFAT CAESAR SALAD #64  
DOLE 6/2# CHOPPED ROMAINE #78  
DOLE 6/5.5oz FT CHICKEN CAESAR CAN #102  
DOLE 6/5.7oz FT FRESCA CAN #103  
DOLE 6/5.9oz FT GREEK GRAINS CAN #104  
DOLE 6/4.9oz FT RANCH CAN #105  
DOLE 6/20oz VALUE BASE CAESAR CAN #155  
DOLE 6/15oz FAMILY ULTIMATE CAESAR #156  
DOLE 4/3 lb CHOP ROMAINE #164  
DOLE 6/10oz 50/50 MIX #338  
DOLE 6/5oz SPRING MIX #347  
DOLE 6/5oz 50/50 MIX #348  
DOLE 6/32oz CHOPPED ROMAINE #501  
DOLE 6/10oz VERY VEGGIE #532  
DOLE 6/15oz FAMILY CLASSIC ROMAINE #534  
DOLE 6/9oz HEARTS OF ROMAINE #540  
DOLE 6/15oz FAMILY GREENER SELECT #555  
DOLE 6/13.1oz CHOPPED POMEGRANATE #601  
DOLE 6/12oz CHOPPED SWEET KALE #606  
DOLE 6/27.2oz CHOPPED SESAMIE ASIAN #608  
DOLE 6/27.2oz CHOPPED SUNFLOWER #609  
DOLE 6/14.4oz CHOPPED BBQ RANCH #611  
DOLE 6/12.9oz CHOPPED BACON & BLUE #612  
DOLE 6/12.9oz CHOPPED CHIPOLTE CHEDDAR #613  
DOLE 6/13.6oz CHOPPED SESAMIE ASIAN #616  
DOLE 6/13.6oz CHOPPED SUNFLOWER #617  
DOLE 8/27.2oz CHOPPED SUNFLOWER #619  
DOLE 9/13.6oz CHOPPED SUNFLOWER #620  
DOLE 12/11oz SPRING MIX CLAM CAN #650  
DOLE 6/32oz CHOPPED ROMAINE CAN #675  
DOLE 12/10oz CAESAR SALAD CAN #678  
DOLE 6/9oz ITALIAN BEND CAN #686  
DOLE 6/12oz AMERICAN BLEND CAN #687  
DOLE 12/12oz GREENER SELECT CAN #695  
DOLE 6/9oz HEARTS OF ROMAINE CAN #696  
DOLE 6/10oz LOWFAT CAESAR SALAD CAN #699  
DOLE 6/10.57oz CREAMY BALSAMIC KIT #756  
DOLE 6/10.8oz CHOPPED CAESAR #757  
DOLE 6/11.5oz ULTIMATE CAESAR KIT #758  
DOLE 6/10.6oz CHOPPED GREEK #759  
DOLE 6/13.25oz COUNTRY RANCH KIT #761  
DOLE 8/5oz BABY ROMAINE CAN #823  
DOLE 8/5oz SPRING MIX CAN #826  
DOLE 8/5oz SPINACH & REDS CAN #827  
DOLE 8/5oz SWEET BABY LETTUCE CAN #828  
DOLE 6/13oz ASIAN ISLAND KIT CAN #930  
DOLE 6/10oz 50/50 SPRING MIX CAN #938  
DOLE 6/11.5oz ULTIMATE CAESAR KIT CAN #953  
DOLE 6/16oz CHOPPED ROMAINE CAN #963  
DOLE 6/12.25oz COUNTRY RANCH KIT CAN #964  
DOLE 6/10oz CREAMY BALSAMIC KIT CAN #971  
DOLE 6/9.2oz MEDITERRANEAN KIT CAN #988  
DOLE 6/10.3oz CHOPPED GREEK CAN #989  
DOLE 6/10.8oz CHOPPED CAESAR CAN #990  
DOLE 6/14.4oz CHOPPED BBQ RANCH CAN #991  
DOLE 6/12.6oz CHOP ITALIENNE CHIANTI CAN #992  
DOLE 6/12.9oz CHOP CHIPOLTE CHEDDAR CAN #993  
DOLE 6/13.6oz CHOPPED ASIAN CAN #996  
DOLE 6/13.1oz CHOPPED POMEGRANATE CAN #997  
DOLE 6/9oz ITALIAN KOSHER #1049  
DOLE 6/2# CHOPPED ROMAINE KOSHER #1078  
DOLE 6/10oz SPRING MIX CLAM #2336  
DOLE 12/9oz CLASSIC ROMAINE #2535  
DOLE 6/9.5oz PREMIUM ROMAINE #2537  
DOLE 12/9oz CLASSIC ROMAINE CAN #2683  
DOLE 6/10oz VERY VEGGIE CAN #2694  
DOLE 6/13oz ENDLESS SUMMER KIT #2768  
DOLE 6/13oz SOUTHWEST KIT #2776  
DOLE 6/13oz SOUTHWEST KIT CAN #2976





November 20, 2018

Dear Four Seasons:

We are aware of the announcement from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on the multistate outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 linked to romaine. The CDC report can be viewed [here](#), the FDA report [here](#) and the Canadian Government [here](#).

Bonduelle Fresh Americas has mobilized all teams to follow up with every element of our supply chain. Out of an abundance of caution, we have made the decision to shut down our entire supply chain of romaine, from harvest to production to shipping.

As such, for any shipments already in transit, we ask that you please accept those products on the trucks that do not contain romaine lettuce. In future shipments, we will not include any product containing romaine until cleared by U.S and/or Canadian authorities.

It should be noted that we have not been contacted by any of our produce suppliers or by any regulatory agencies in relation to this advisory or report, and we have no reason to believe any of our products are affected. At BFA, the safety and quality of our products is our number one priority. We test all of our leafy greens (including romaine) in the fields prior to harvest. We are proud of our best-in-class food safety record and conduct rigorous food safety testing across our network.

We will continue to monitor the situation very closely, following any and all direction given by governmental agencies involved and will keep you advised.

Thank you for your partnership and business.

Jay Ellis  
Chief Commercial Officer  
Bonduelle Fresh Americas