



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570 | Phone: 573-751-6400 | FAX: 573-751-6010
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Paula F. Nickelson
Director

Michael L. Parson
Governor

Informational Release: RFP23-04

TO: Local Public Health Agency Administrators
Local Public Health Agency Environmental Public Health Specialists
Bureau of Environmental Health Services Public Health Environmental Specialists

THROUGH: Dusty Johnson, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Environmental Health Services

THROUGH: Mark Jenkerson, Program Operations Manager, Bureau of Environmental Health Services

FROM: Paige Anderson, Retail Food Program Manager, Bureau of Environmental Health Services

SUBJECT: Melon recall due to *Salmonella*

DATE: November 21, 2023

CONTACT: Paige Anderson, Retail Food Program Manager, Bureau of Environmental Health Services (BEHS)
Paige.Anderson@health.mo.gov
573-751-6095

On November 9, 2023, the FDA published a recall for Sofia Produce, LLC dba Trufresh to recall fresh cantaloupe due to the risk of *Salmonella*. On November 16, 2023, this recall was expanded to include additional lot codes. The recalls do not state that the affected product was distributed to Missouri, however, potentially related illnesses have been reported to DHSS. Further investigation into these illnesses have suggested a potential link to the consumption of melons. CDC reports 43 known illnesses spanning across 15 states and Canada. These numbers are projected to increase. This investigation is still currently ongoing and the advisory will be updated as more details become available.

Salmonella illness usually occurs within 12-72 hours after consuming contaminated food and usually lasts 4-7 days. Symptoms include diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps. Children younger than 5, the elderly, and people with weakened immune systems are more likely to

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have severe infections. LPHAs are encouraged to reach out to establishments in their jurisdiction to ensure awareness and provide proper education on the recalled product and the effects of *Salmonella* as we go into the holiday weekend. Any reported illness associated with the recalled melons should be directed to your BEHS district staff to be sent to DHSS for further investigation.

Resources:

- FDA Recalls:
 - 11/16/2023: <https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/sofia-produce-llc-dba-trufresh-expands-recall-include-additional-order-numbers-fresh-cantaloupe>
 - 11/9/2023: <https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/sofia-produce-llc-dba-trufresh-recalls-fresh-cantaloupe-because-possible-health-risk-due-salmonella>
- FDA Outbreak Investigation of *Salmonella*: Cantaloupes: <https://www.fda.gov/food/outbreaks-foodborne-illness/outbreak-investigation-salmonella-cantaloupes-november-2023>
- CDC Investigation Details: <https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/sundsvall-11-23/details.html>
- CDC *Salmonella* Outbreak Linked to Cantaloupes: <https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/sundsvall-11-23/index.html>
- CDC *Salmonella*: <https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/index.html>
- FDA *Salmonella*: <https://www.fda.gov/food/foodborne-pathogens/salmonella-salmonellosis>

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