



**Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services**

P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570 Phone: 573-751-6400 FAX: 573-751-6010  
RELAY MISSOURI for Hearing and Speech Impaired and Voice dial: 711

**Paula F. Nickelson**  
Acting Director



**Michael L. Parson**  
Governor

**INFORMATIONAL RELEASE NUMBER RFP22-02**

**TO:** DHSS Bureau of Environmental Health Services (BEHS); Local Public Health Agencies; Nebraska Department of Agriculture; Iowa Department of Inspection and Appeals; Kansas Department of Agriculture; U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Kansas City District Office (HAF West2); U.S. FDA Office of Criminal Investigation

**THROUGH:** Dusty Johnson, BEHS Acting Chief *AL*

**FROM:** Mark Jenkerson, Food Operations Manager *MJ*

**SUBJECT:** Retail Food Product Notification

**ISSUE DATE:** April 15, 2022

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediate

**CONTACT:** Mark Jenkerson, Food Operations Manager  
[mark.jenkerson@health.mo.gov](mailto:mark.jenkerson@health.mo.gov)  
(573) 751-6095

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has been alerted to the possible distribution of uninspected and potentially misbranded and/or adulterated food product in northwest Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska. The products may include shelf stable salsa, guacamole, and/or queso dip distributed under the brand name "The Salsa Guys." Affected products are labeled with a distributor address of 152 W Arrow, Marshall, MO, 65340. "The Salsa Guys" products are thought to be largely sold from vendor booths at craft fairs and other similar events.

152 W Arrow, Marshall, Missouri is the physical address for "Montague's, LLC", a restaurant, gift shop, and small gathering place of business in Saline County, Missouri. It is locally owned/operated and is in good standing with the Saline County Health Department. "Montague's, LLC" has no known business affiliation with "The Salsa Guys."

The Missouri Food Code requires retailers that meet the definition of a food establishment to obtain written approval from state and/or local health departments to operate as a food establishment prior to operation. The code also requires special process approval from state and/or local health departments for certain activities, including but not limited to using food additives for preservation and packaging food using a reduced oxygen packaging method.

[www.health.mo.gov](http://www.health.mo.gov)

**Healthy Missourians for life.**

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services will be the leader in promoting, protecting and partnering for health.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER: Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.

DHSS and the Saline County Health Department are not aware of any valid written approvals issued for the manufacture or distribution of salsa, guacamole, and/or queso dip product under the brand name “The Salsa Guys.” Furthermore, DHSS and the Saline County Health Department have reason to believe 152 W. Arrow, Marshall, MO, is not and never has been a place of business for the manufacture, packing, or distribution of “The Salsa Guys” products.

Products such as salsa, guacamole, and queso dip are not eligible for inspection exemptions under Missouri Cottage Food Laws and Rules and must be prepared in an approved, inspected facility. Neither DHSS nor the Saline County Health Department issue food permits or licenses for food retailers. However, both agencies always provide inspected entities a written report upon completion of any inspection. Travelling vendors can/should provide a copy of a completed inspection report upon request from regulators as a starting point for demonstrating compliance with applicable food safety rules.

Regulatory partners interested in vetting travelling retail food vendors are welcome to contact the applicable Local Public Health Agency. A directory of Missouri Local Public Health Agencies is available at <https://health.mo.gov/living/lpha/lphas.php>. Partners may also contact DHSS for the same purpose at (573) 751-6095 or [FoodSafetyComplaints@health.mo.gov](mailto:FoodSafetyComplaints@health.mo.gov).