



# INDUSTRY ALERT UPDATE

November 27, 2018

## Multi-state outbreak *E. coli* O157:H7 infections linked to romaine lettuce

The FDA states that preliminary traceback information indicates that ill people in several areas across the country were exposed to romaine lettuce harvested in California. Specifically, current evidence indicates this romaine was harvested in the Central Coast growing regions of northern and central California.

There is no recommendation for consumers or retailers to avoid using romaine lettuce that is certain to have been harvested from areas outside of the Central Coast growing regions of northern and central California. For example, romaine lettuce harvested from areas that include, but are not limited to the desert growing region near Yuma, the California desert growing region near Imperial County and Riverside County, the state of Florida, and Mexico, does not appear to be related to the current outbreak. Additionally, there is no evidence hydroponically- and greenhouse-grown romaine is related to the current outbreak.

### **The FDA has urged growers, processors, distributors and retailers to:**

- ° Clearly and prominently label all individually packaged romaine products to identify growing region and harvest date for romaine; and
- ° Clearly and prominently label at the point of sale the growing region when it is not possible for romaine lettuce suppliers to label the package (e.g. individual unwrapped whole heads of romaine lettuce available in retail stores).

For more information about the FDA Labeling Guidance:

<https://www.pma.com/content/articles/2018/11/qa-romaine>

We are working with our suppliers to assure that all future shipments of romaine products will comply with the FDA voluntary labeling guidance, until this requirement is met Midwest Foods will not be supplying any romaine or romaine products.

Additional information/updates are available at  
[cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov) and [fda.gov](http://fda.gov)