



November 27, 2018

Dear Valued Gordon Food Service Customer -

On the evening of November 26, 2018 the FDA's Commissioner Scott Gottlieb [released an update](#) regarding the E. coli O157:H7 outbreak investigation linked to romaine. The update contains a number of details; however, below are a few highlights we felt important to share.

1. "At the time of the outbreak, the vast majority of the romaine on the market was being grown in the Central Coast region of California. Since then, harvesting of romaine lettuce from this region has ended for the year. Growing and harvesting of romaine lettuce is now shifting to the winter growing regions of the U.S., which include mainly the California desert region of the Imperial Valley, the desert region of Arizona in and around Yuma, and Florida."
2. "The FDA has no information to suggest any of these [California desert region of the Imperial Valley, the desert region of Arizona in and around Yuma, and Florida] growing areas are involved in the current outbreak, which began well before any romaine lettuce from these winter growing locations was available for harvest. In addition, hydroponic romaine lettuce and romaine lettuce grown in green-houses is also marketed in the U.S., but there is no information to suggest these products are implicated in any identified *E. coli* O157:H7 outbreak."
3. "Romaine lettuce that was harvested outside of the Central Coast growing regions of northern and central California does not appear to be related to the current outbreak. Hydroponically- and greenhouse-grown romaine also does not appear to be related to the current outbreak. There is no recommendation for consumers or retailers to avoid using romaine harvested from these sources."
4. "Based on discussions with major producers and distributors, romaine lettuce entering the market will now be labeled with a harvest location and a harvest date. Romaine lettuce entering the market can also be labeled as being hydroponically or greenhouse grown. If it does not have this information, you should not eat or use it."

Gordon Food Service is committed to continuing to follow all CDC and FDA guidance. Gordon Food Service sales representatives will share our return to service plan with each customer as needed.