



November 20, 2018

Dear Valued Gordon Food Service Customer:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is advising that consumers not eat any romaine lettuce, and retailers and restaurants not serve or sell any romaine lettuce. Thirty-two people infected with the outbreak strain of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* O157:H7 have been reported from 11 states. Epidemiological evidence from the United States and Canada indicates that romaine lettuce is a likely source of the outbreak. Illnesses started on dates ranging from October 8, 2018 to October 31, 2018.

Symptoms of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) infection vary for each person, but often include severe stomach cramps, diarrhea (often bloody), and vomiting. Some people may have a fever, which usually is not very high (less than 101°F/38.5°C). Most people get better within 5 to 7 days. Some infections are very mild, but others are severe or even life-threatening. Most people with a STEC infection start feeling sick 3 to 4 days after eating or drinking something that contains the bacteria. However, illnesses can start anywhere from 1 to 10 days after exposure. Contact your healthcare provider if you have diarrhea that lasts for more than 3 days or is accompanied by high fever, blood in the stool, or so much vomiting that you cannot keep liquids down and you pass very little urine.

The CDC advisory can be found at the below website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2018/o157h7-11-18/index.html>

The CDC advises that consumers who have any type of romaine lettuce in their home should not eat it and should throw it away, even if some of it was eaten and no one has gotten sick. This advice includes all types or uses of romaine lettuce, such as whole heads of romaine, hearts of romaine, and bags and boxes of pre-cut lettuce and salad mixes that contain romaine, including baby romaine, spring mix, and Caesar salad. Restaurants and retailers should not serve or sell any romaine lettuce, including salads and salad mixes containing romaine. CDC is advising that consumers do not eat any romaine lettuce because no common grower, supplier, distributor, or brand of romaine lettuce has been identified as the source of the *E. coli*.

In response to the CDC announcement, Gordon Food Service is placing ALL romaine lettuce, including pre-cut lettuce and salad mixes containing romaine, on HOLD. We will continue to follow the CDC's recommendations and make the product unavailable for sale until the CDC determines that it is safe to eat again.

At this time, the investigation is ongoing and NO official recalls have been issued for romaine. Gordon Food Service is monitoring this situation and will continue to provide updates as new information becomes available. Thank you.