



Ohio Department of Agriculture
and
Ohio Department of Health



Governor Ted Strickland
Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher

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ODH Director Alvin D. Jackson, M.D.

To: Health Commissioners, Environmental Health Directors, Nursing Directors, ODA Food Safety Specialists, and Other Interested Parties

Subject: Recall Announcement (ODA/ODH) 2009-22

Date: March 31, 2009

**FDA Alerts Consumers to Recall of Certain Pistachios
*FDA and California Inspectors Identify Salmonella***

The FDA and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) are investigating *Salmonella* contamination in pistachio products sold by Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella Inc, Calif. The company has stopped all distribution of processed pistachios and will issue a voluntary recall involving approximately 1 million pounds of its products. Because the pistachios were used as ingredients in a variety of foods, it is likely this recall will impact many products. In addition, the investigation at the company is ongoing and may lead to additional pistachio product recalls.

The contamination involves multiple strains of *Salmonella*. *Salmonella* can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Thus far, several illnesses have been reported by consumers that may be associated with the pistachios. It is not yet known whether any of the *Salmonella* strains found in the pistachio products are linked to an outbreak. The FDA is conducting genetic testing of the samples to pursue all links.

FDA is working closely with the pistachio industry and recommends that consumers avoid eating pistachio products until further information is available about the scope of affected products.

FDA will provide a searchable database of affected products at www.fda.gov and will continue to update the public.

FDA first learned of the problem on March 24, when it was informed by Kraft Foods that its Back To Nature Trail Mix was found to be contaminated with *Salmonella*. Kraft had identified the source of the contamination to be pistachios from Setton and conducted a recall.