



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

*"To protect and improve  
the health and environment  
of the people of Colorado."*

# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Ground Beef Recall in Colorado Expanded to Include Sam's Club Stores**

DENVER— The recall of approximately 826,000 pounds of ground beef products that may be linked to an outbreak of illness from *Salmonella* Newport, distributed by Beef Packers, Inc., a Fresno, Calif., establishment, now includes ground beef sold at Sam's Club stores in Colorado, according to officials at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Recalled meet sold at Colorado Sam's Clubs would have the original Beef Packers user freeze-by dates of 7/6/09 and 7/8/09, and all meat was 90 percent lean.

Most people became ill during late June and early July, with the most recent illness occurring July 13. The ground beef products associated with the known cases were produced on various dates ranging from June 5, 2009, through June 23, 2009, and bear the establishment number "EST. 31913" printed on the case code labels.

The ground beef products were distributed to retail distribution centers in Arizona, California, Colorado and Utah.

State health officials, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and several other state health departments have been investigating an outbreak of infections that are resistant to several commonly used antibiotics. Twenty-one illnesses in Colorado have been reported in the following counties: Arapahoe (3), Broomfield (3), Denver (3), Douglas (1), Elbert (1), Garfield (1), Jefferson (5), Mesa (1), Pueblo (1) and Weld (2). Four people have been hospitalized, and all are recovering.

Of the 21 confirmed cases in Colorado, one person reported having purchased the ground beef product at a Sam's Club.

Because these products were repackaged into consumer-sized packages and sold under different retail brand names, consumers should check with their local retailer to determine whether they may have purchased any of the products subject to recall.

Daniel Rifkin, wholesale food program manager with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, advises consumers to check their freezers for any recalled product and discard it because of the potential to contaminate hands or the kitchen with the meat. The product also can be returned to place of purchase.

Eating food contaminated with *Salmonella* can result in abdominal cramping, diarrhea and fever. Most people infected with *Salmonella* develop symptoms 12 to 72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts four to seven days. Most people recover without treatment. However, anyone experiencing symptoms such as severe diarrhea should contact a physician. In some individuals, diarrhea may be so severe that the patient needs to be hospitalized. In rare circumstances, infection with *Salmonella* can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses.

The very young, the elderly and people with weak immune systems are the most susceptible to foodborne illness; however, anyone can be infected with *Salmonella*.

Consumers with food safety questions also can contact "Ask Karen," the Food Safety and Inspection Service virtual representative available 24 hours a day at [AskKaren.gov](http://AskKaren.gov). The toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854) is available in English and Spanish and can be reached from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday. Recorded food safety messages are available 24 hours a day.

Consumers with questions about the recall can contact the Beef Packers, Inc. Consumer Line at 877-872-3635. Media with questions should contact company director of communications Rebecca Hayne at 316-291-2126. For more information about food safety, also call the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Consumer Protection Division at 303-692-3620.