



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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LOCAL E.COLI CASE LINKED TO NATIONAL RECALL OF BEEF ***San Diego County Girl's Illness Matched to Recall; HHSA Continues Surveillance***

The County of San Diego HHSA (Health and Human Services Agency) reports that a San Diego County teenager was sickened by *E. coli* 0157:H7 after consuming beef that is part of the recently announced national recall of beef products.

The 17-year-old girl, who was not hospitalized and has recovered, became ill in December, before the national recall was announced.

"HHSA's Community Epidemiology Branch determined an association of the girl's illness with the beef recall," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County of San Diego Public Health Officer. "HHSA works closely with local physicians to continually monitor disease trends in the community."

E. coli 0157:H7 is a potentially deadly bacterium that can cause bloody diarrhea and dehydration. The very young, seniors and persons with compromised immune systems are the most susceptible to foodborne illness.

Rochester Meat Company of Rochester, Minn. has voluntarily recalled 188,000 pounds of beef products due to possible contamination with *E. coli* 0157:H7.

The ground beef products subject to recall were produced on Oct. 30, 2007, and Nov. 6, 2007. The products subject to recall were shipped to distributors nationwide for further distribution to restaurants and food service institutions. These products were not available for purchase by consumers in retail businesses. The County Department of Environmental Health is working to notify restaurant chain operations that may have received the beef products and will contact individual restaurants when product distribution information is available.

For specific information on which products are subject to the recall, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-674-6854 or go to the following link: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fsis_Recalls/

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