

Outbreak Investigation of *Listeria monocytogenes* – Hispanic-style Fresh and Soft Cheeses (February 2021)

FDA's investigation is complete. CDC declares outbreak over.

The FDA, along with CDC and state and local partners, investigated a multistate outbreak of *Listeria monocytogenes* infections linked to queso fresco cheeses made by El Abuelito Cheese, Inc. On 5/14/2021, the CDC announced that this outbreak is over.

Recommendation

Recalled Queso Fresco, Quesillo (Oaxaca, string cheese), or Requeson (ricotta) cheeses are past shelf life and should no longer be available.

FDA recommends that anyone who received recalled products use extra vigilance in cleaning and sanitizing any surfaces and containers that may have come in contact with these products to reduce the risk of cross-contamination. *Listeria* can survive in refrigerated temperatures and can easily spread to other foods and surfaces.

People who are pregnant, are age 65 or over, or have a weakened immune system should not eat any soft cheeses unless they are made with pasteurized milk. Consumers at higher risk for *Listeria* illness should be aware that although pasteurization of milk kills *Listeria*, soft cheeses made from pasteurized milk can still become contaminated and have caused *Listeria* outbreaks, including this one.

Product Images



RIO GRANDE
CUAJADA FRESCA
GUATEMALTECA
GUATEMALAN FRESH CHEESE

ESPECIAL ESPECIAL \$4.99

Fresh Product / Producto Fresco
Keep Refrigerated / Mantener Refrigerado

ESPECIAL ESPECIAL \$4.99

CUAJADA FRESCA
GUATEMALTECA
GUATEMALAN FRESH CHEESE

Nutrition Facts / Información Nutricional
6 servings per container (12 oz) (340g)
Serving size 2 oz (57g)

Amount per Serving / Cantidad por ración	
Calories / Calorías	160
Total Fat 10g	20%
Saturated Fat 6g	12%
Trans Fat 0g	0%
Cholesterol 30mg	6%
Sodium 100mg	2%
Total Carbohydrate 10g	2%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Total Sugars 10g	20%
Total Protein 10g	20%

NET WT./PESO NETO 12 oz (340g)

RIO GRANDE
CUAJADA FRESCA
HONDUREÑA
HONDURAN FRESH CHEESE

ESPECIAL ESPECIAL \$4.99

Fresh Product / Producto Fresco
Keep Refrigerated / Mantener Refrigerado

ESPECIAL ESPECIAL \$4.99

CUAJADA FRESCA
HONDUREÑA
HONDURAN FRESH CHEESE

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Sodium 100mg	2%
Total Carbohydrate 10g	2%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Total Sugars 10g	20%
Total Protein 10g	20%

NET WT./PESO NETO 12 oz (340g)

RIO GRANDE
CUAJADA FRESCA
SALVADOREÑA
SALVADORAN FRESH CHEESE

ESPECIAL ESPECIAL \$4.99

Fresh Product / Producto Fresco
Keep Refrigerated / Mantener Refrigerado

ESPECIAL ESPECIAL \$4.99

CUAJADA FRESCA
SALVADOREÑA
SALVADORAN FRESH CHEESE

Nutrition Facts / Información Nutricional
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Serving size 2 oz (57g)

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Trans Fat 0g	0%
Cholesterol 30mg	6%
Sodium 100mg	2%
Total Carbohydrate 10g	2%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Total Sugars 10g	20%
Total Protein 10g	20%

NET WT./PESO NETO 12 oz (340g)

RIO LINDO
Queso Fresco
HONDUREÑO
HONDURAN CHEESE

KEEP REFRIGERATED

Nutrition Facts
6 servings per package
Serving size 2 oz (57g)

Amount per serving	
Calories	160
Total Fat 10g	20%
Saturated Fat 6g	12%
Trans Fat 0g	0%
Cholesterol 30mg	6%
Sodium 100mg	2%
Total Carbohydrate 10g	2%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Total Sugars 10g	20%
Total Protein 10g	20%

INGREDIENTS: PASTEURIZED MILK, SKIM MILK POWDER, RENNET, SORBIC ACID, NATAMYCIN.
Distributed By: JRA Food Dist. Inc., Gwynn MD 21207 Plant: #34-12179

NET WT. 12 oz (340g)

RIO LINDO
Queso Fresco
MEXICANO
MEXICAN CHEESE

KEEP REFRIGERATED

Nutrition Facts
6 servings per package
Serving size 2 oz (57g)

Amount per serving	
Calories	160
Total Fat 10g	20%
Saturated Fat 6g	12%
Trans Fat 0g	0%
Cholesterol 30mg	6%
Sodium 100mg	2%
Total Carbohydrate 10g	2%
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NET WT. 12 oz (340g)



Recall Information

On 2/19/2021, El Abuelito Cheese, Inc. announced their [initial recall](#) of products, and on 2/27/2021, they announced the [expansion of their recall](#) to cover additional products. The recall announcements include the full product list and descriptions.

Consumers, restaurants, and retailers should not eat, sell, or serve any recalled Queso Fresco, Quesillo (Oaxaca, string cheese), or Requeson (ricotta) cheeses.

The firm's recall does not include any additional products with the El Abuelito Cheese, Inc. label because they are not manufactured or handled in the same facility; this includes El Abuelito Meat, Inc., panela cheese, cotija cheese, mole, crema centroamericana, and crema mexicana. Updates will be provided as they become available.

FDA has posted lists of retailers that may have received Hispanic-styles cheeses from the El Abuelito Cheese, Inc. facility in Paterson N.J. It is possible that these lists may not include all retailers who have received these cheeses; however, these lists represent the best information currently available to the FDA.

- [Retail Establishments that Received El Abuelito Brand Queso Fresco, Quesillo, and Requeson Products](#)

- [Retail Establishments that Received Private Label Brand Queso Fresco \(Rio Grande, Rio Lindo\), Quesillo \(El Viejito, El Paisano, El Sabrosito, La Cima, Quesos Finos, San Carlos, Ideal Brands\), and Requeson Products \(El Viejito\)](#)

Map of U.S. Distribution of Recalled Queso Fresco, Quesillo, and Requeson Cheeses

