

Salmonella Outbreak Linked to Cantaloupes

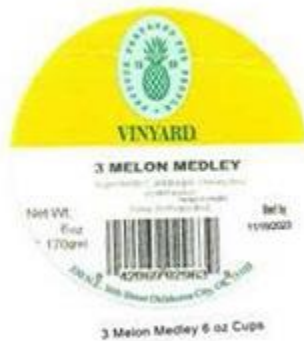


Food Safety Alert

Posted November 17, 2023

Fast Facts

- Illnesses: 43
- Hospitalizations: 17
- Deaths: 0
- [States](#): 15
- Recall: Yes
- Investigation status: Active



Recalled brands

Cantaloupe

Recalled brands

Recalled Food

Whole cantaloupes

- Might have a sticker that says “Malichita”, “4050”, and “Product of Mexico/produit du Mexique”
- Sold in many states between October 16 and October 23, 2023
- See [recall notice](#) and [expanded recall](#) for more details

Vinyard brand pre-cut cantaloupes

- Includes cantaloupe cubes, melon medleys, and fruit medleys
- Sold in Oklahoma stores between October 30 and November 10, 2023
- Most have a yellow label with “Vinyard,” and some have a red label with “Fresh”
- See [recall notice](#) for product photos and more details

ALDI whole cantaloupe and pre-cut fruit products

- Includes whole cantaloupes, cantaloupe chunks in clamshell packaging, and pineapple spears in clamshell packaging
- Best-by dates between October 27 and October 31, 2023
- Sold in ALDI stores in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, and Wisconsin
- See [recall notice \[PDF – 2 pages\]](#) for more details

Investigators are working to identify any additional cantaloupe products that may be contaminated.

What You Should Do

- **Do not eat any recalled cantaloupes and other fruit products.** Throw them away or return them to where you bought them.
- **Wash items and surfaces** that may have touched the recalled fruit using hot soapy water or a dishwasher.
- **Call your healthcare provider** if you have any of these severe *Salmonella* symptoms:
 - Diarrhea and a fever higher than 102°F
 - Diarrhea for more than 3 days that is not improving
 - Bloody diarrhea
 - So much vomiting that you cannot keep liquids down
 - Signs of dehydration, such as:

- Not peeing much
- Dry mouth and throat
- Feeling dizzy when standing up

What Businesses Should Do

- **Do not sell or serve** recalled cantaloupes and products made with recalled cantaloupe.
- **Wash and sanitize items and surfaces** that may have come in contact with recalled fruit.

Symptoms of *Salmonella*

- Most people infected with *Salmonella* experience diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps.
 - Symptoms usually start 6 hours to 6 days after swallowing the bacteria.
 - Most people recover without treatment after 4 to 7 days.
- Some people—especially children younger than 5 years, adults 65 years and older, and people with weakened immune systems—may experience more severe illnesses that require medical treatment or hospitalization.
- For more information about *Salmonella*, see [the *Salmonella* Questions and Answers page](#).

Investigation Details

Posted November 17, 2023

November 17, 2023

CDC, public health and regulatory officials in several states, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are collecting [different types of data](#) to investigate a multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Sundsvall infections.

Epidemiologic and laboratory data show that cantaloupes are making people in this outbreak sick.

Epidemiologic Data

As of November 17, 43 people infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* have been reported from 15 states (see [map](#)). Illnesses started on dates ranging from October 17, 2023, to November 6, 2023 (see [timeline](#)). Of 30 people with information available, 17 have been hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.

The true number of sick people in this outbreak is likely much higher than the number reported, and the outbreak may not be limited to the states with known illnesses. This is because many people recover without medical care and are not tested for *Salmonella*. In addition, recent illnesses may not yet be reported as it usually takes [3 to 4 weeks](#) to determine if a sick person is part of an outbreak.

Public health officials collect many different types of information from sick people, including their age, race, ethnicity, other demographics, and the foods they ate in the week before they got sick. This information provides clues to help investigators identify the source of the outbreak.

The table below has information about sick people in this outbreak (“n” is the number of people with information available for each demographic).

Table of demographic information (n is the number of people with information available)

Demographics	Information
Age (n=43)	Range from 1 to 100 years Median age of 62 years
Sex (n=43)	58% Female 42% Male
Race (n=33)	94% White 3% Asian 3% reported more than one race
Ethnicity (n=32)	81% non-Hispanic 19% Hispanic

State and local public health officials are interviewing people about the foods they ate in the week before they got sick. Of the 29 people interviewed, 15 (52%) reported eating cantaloupe. This percentage was significantly higher than the 19.6% of respondents who reported eating cantaloupe in the [FoodNet Population Survey](#)—a survey that helps estimate how often people eat various foods linked to diarrheal illness.

Laboratory Data

Public health investigators are using the [PulseNet](#) system to identify illnesses that may be part of this outbreak. CDC PulseNet manages a national database of DNA fingerprints of bacteria that cause foodborne illnesses. DNA fingerprinting is performed on bacteria using a method called [whole genome sequencing \(WGS\)](#). WGS showed that bacteria from sick people's samples are closely related genetically. This suggests that people in this outbreak got sick from the same food.

Canada is also investigating a *Salmonella* outbreak linked to cantaloupes. The strain causing the outbreak in Canada is the same as the US outbreak strain. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency found *Salmonella* in a sample of Malichita brand cantaloupe, and WGS showed that the *Salmonella* on the cantaloupe is closely related genetically to the bacteria from sick people in Canada. This suggests that people in the Canadian and US outbreaks likely got sick from eating cantaloupe.

[WGS analysis](#) of bacteria from 41 people's samples did not predict resistance to any antibiotics. More information is available at the [National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System \(NARMS\)](#) site.

Public Health Actions

On November 1, 2023, Malichita brand cantaloupes were [recalled](#) in Canada.

On November 8, Trufresh [recalled](#) Malichita brand whole cantaloupes that were sold to US businesses between October 16 and October 23. On November 15, Trufresh [expanded](#) their recall to include additional whole cantaloupes.

Additional products containing Malichita brand cantaloupes were also recalled. On November 14, Vinyard Fruit and Vegetable Company [recalled](#) pre-cut fruit products and ALDI [recalled](#) [\[PDF – 2 pages\]](#) its whole cantaloupe, cantaloupe chunks, and pineapple spears.

CDC is advising people not to eat, sell, or serve recalled fruit.