

Salmonella Outbreak Linked to Cantaloupes



Food Safety Alert

Posted November 24, 2023

Fast Facts

- Illnesses: 99 (56 new)
- Hospitalizations: 45 (28 new)
- Deaths: 2 (2 new)
- [States](#): 32 (17 new)
- Recall: Yes
- Investigation status: Active (first posted on November 17, 2023)



Stickers for recalled whole cantaloupes



Cantaloupe



Stickers for recalled whole cantaloupes



Cantaloupe



Stickers for recalled whole cantaloupes



- 1
- 2

Recalled Food

Whole cantaloupes

- Might have a sticker that says “Malichita” or “Rudy,” with the number “4050”, and “Product of Mexico/produit du Mexique”
- See [Trufresh recall](#), [Crown Jewels recall](#), and [Pacific Trellis 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

Freshness Guaranteed brand and RaceTrac brand pre-cut cantaloupes

- Includes cantaloupe chunks, seasonal blend, melon mixes, and fruit mixes
- Packed in clear square or round plastic containers
- Best-by dates between November 7 to November 12, 2023
- Sold in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia
- See [recall notice](#) 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.

Investigation Details

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Epidemiologic and laboratory data show that cantaloupes are contaminated with *Salmonella* and are making people in this outbreak sick.

Canada is also investigating this [outbreak](#) and has linked illness in Canada with the same *Salmonella* strain to cantaloupes.

Epidemiologic Data

Since the last update on November 17, 2023, 56 more illnesses have been reported. As of November 24, 99 people infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* have been reported from 32 states. Illnesses started on dates ranging from October 17, 2023, to November 10, 2023. Of 77 people with information available, 45 have been hospitalized. Two deaths have been reported from Minnesota.

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=97)	Range from <1 to 100 years Median age of 62 years
Sex (n=98)	60% Male 40% Female
Race (n=75)	88% White 9% African American/Black 1% Asian 1% reported more than one race

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

Demographics	Information
Ethnicity (n=73)	86% non-Hispanic 14% Hispanic

State and local public health officials are interviewing people about the foods they ate in the week before they got sick. Of the 33 people interviewed, 29 (88%) 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

[WGS analysis](#) of bacteria from 89 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 22, 2023, more recalls for whole and pre-cut cantaloupes were issued. Trufresh [expanded their recall](#) again to include all Malichita brand and Rudy brand whole cantaloupes. Crown Jewels [recalled](#) Malitchita brand whole cantaloupes. CF Dallas [recalled](#) pre-cut fruit products containing recalled cantaloupes.

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