

Salmonella Outbreak Linked to Cantaloupes



Food Safety Alert

Posted December 15, 2023

CDC is concerned about this outbreak because the illnesses are severe and people in long-term care facilities and childcare centers have gotten sick. While the investigation is ongoing, do not eat pre-cut cantaloupes if you don't know whether Malichita or Rudy brand cantaloupes were used.

Fast Facts

- Illnesses: 302 (72 new)
- Hospitalizations: 129 (33 new)
- Deaths: 4 (1 new)
- [States](#): 42 (4 new)
- Recall: Yes
- Investigation status: Active (first posted on November 17, 2023)



Stickers for recalled whole cantaloupes

Recalled Food

Malichita and Rudy brand 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

Pre-cut fruit products made with recalled whole cantaloupes

- [Kwik Trip](#) cantaloupe cups, mixed fruit cups, and fruit tray with sell-by dates from November 4 through December 3
- [TGD Cuts](#) cantaloupe chunks, mixed fruits, and fruit trays with use-by dates from November 2 through November 24
- [Freshness Guaranteed and RaceTrac](#) cantaloupe chunks, seasonal blend, melon mixes, and fruit mixes with best-by dates from November 7 through November 12
- [Stop & Shop](#) cantaloupe purchased from October 23 through November 11
- [Vinyard](#) cantaloupe cubes, melon medleys, and fruit medleys sold in Oklahoma stores from October 30 through November 10
- [Kroger, Sprouts Farmers Market, and Trader Joe's](#) cantaloupe chunks, mixed melons, fruit medleys, and fruit trays with best-by dates from October 28 through November 8
- [Cut Fruit Express](#) cantaloupe chunks, melon mixes, and fruit mixes with use-by dates from November 4 through November 6
- [ALDI \[PDF – 2 pages\]](#) whole cantaloupes, cantaloupe chunks, and pineapple spears with best-by dates from October 27 through October 31
- [Bix Produce](#) cantaloupe fruit cups and mixed fruit cups with sell-by dates of October 25 and October 26
- All cantaloupe recalls are listed on [FDA's cantaloupe recall website](#).

What You Should Do

- **While the investigation is ongoing, do not eat pre-cut cantaloupes if you don't know whether Malichita or Rudy brand cantaloupes were used.**

- This includes cantaloupe chunks and fruit mixes with cantaloupes at restaurants and grocery stores.
- **Do not eat any recalled whole or pre-cut cantaloupe products.**
 - If you have any, throw them away or return them to the store.
 - If the whole cantaloupe does not have a sticker, check with the store to make sure it is not a Malichita or Rudy brand cantaloupe.
- **Wash items and surfaces** that may have touched the cantaloupe 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 Long-Term Care Facilities, Childcare Centers, and Hospitals Should Do
Adults 65 and older, children under 5 years, and people with weakened immune systems are more likely to get very sick from *Salmonella*. In this outbreak, 40 sick people resided in long-term care facilities and 30 children attended childcare centers before they got sick.

CDC advises facilities that care for people at higher risk to not serve cantaloupes that may be contaminated:

- **Do not use any recalled whole or pre-cut cantaloupes.**
- **While the investigation is ongoing, do not serve any cantaloupe that was supplied pre-cut if you don't know whether Malichita or Rudy brand cantaloupes were used.**

What Businesses Should Do

- **Do not sell or serve** recalled cantaloupes and products made with recalled cantaloupe, even if they have been washed.
 - Washing does not remove all germs and does not make recalled products safe to eat.

- **Wash and sanitize items and surfaces** that may have come in contact with recalled cantaloupes.

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 December 15, 2023

December 15, 2023

Epidemiologic Data

Since the last update on December 7, 72 more illnesses have been reported. As of December 14, 302 people infected with one of the outbreak strains of *Salmonella* have been reported from 42 states. Illnesses started on dates ranging from October 16, 2023, to November 28, 2023. Of 263 people with information available, 129 (49%) have been hospitalized. Four deaths have been reported, three from Minnesota and one from Oregon.

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=299)	Range from <1 to 100 years Median age of 61 years 26% are 5 years or younger 48% are 65 years or older
Sex (n=300)	48% Male 52% Female
Race (n=240)	84% White 11% African American/Black 4% Asian <1% Native American or Alaska Native 1% reported more than one race
Ethnicity (n=239)	89% non-Hispanic 11% Hispanic

State and local public health officials are interviewing people about the foods they ate in the week before they got sick. Of the 145 people interviewed, 107 (74%) 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. Of the 107 people who reported eating cantaloupe, 56 people specifically reported eating pre-cut cantaloupe and 29 reported eating whole cantaloupe.

Forty people resided at long-term care facilities when they got sick. Of 17 interviewed, 11 reported eating cantaloupe.

Thirty children attended childcare centers when they got sick. Of 26 children with information available, 17 ate cantaloupe.

Laboratory Data

[WGS analysis](#) of bacteria from 300 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 Action

Since the last update, one additional recall for cantaloupes has been issued. Stop & Shop [recalled](#) cantaloupes purchased from October 23 through November 11.