

Outbreak Investigation of *E. coli* O121:H19: Organic Carrots (November 2024)

Do not eat or serve multiple brands of recalled bagged organic whole and baby carrots supplied by Grimmway Farms. FDA's investigation is ongoing.



Product

Grimmway Farms initiated a [voluntary recall](#) of multiple sizes and brands of bagged organic whole and baby carrots.

- Organic whole carrots were available for purchase at retail from August 14 through October 23, 2024 (365, Bunny Luv, Cal-Organic, Compliments, Full Circle, Good & Gather, GreenWise, Marketside, Nature's Promise, O Organic, President's Choice, Simple Truth, Trader Joe's, Wegmans, Wholesome Pantry).
- Organic baby carrots include specific best-if-used-by dates printed on the bags ranging from September 11 to November 12, 2024 (365, Bunny Luv, Cal-Organic, Compliments, Full Circle, Good & Gather, GreenWise, Grimmway Farms, Kroger, LIDL, Marketside, Nature's Promise, O Organic, President's Choice, Raley's, Simple Truth, Sprouts, Trader Joe's, Wegmans, Wholesome Pantry).

A full list of [recalled products](#) is below. These products are likely no longer available for sale in stores but could be in people's homes.

Symptoms of *E. coli*

Symptoms include severe stomach cramps, diarrhea, fever, nausea, and/or vomiting. Symptoms begin anywhere from a few days after consuming contaminated food or up to nine days later.

The severity or presence of certain symptoms may depend on the type of pathogenic *E. coli* that is causing the infection. Some infections can cause severe bloody diarrhea and lead to life-threatening conditions, such as a type of kidney failure called hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), or the development of high blood pressure, chronic kidney disease, and neurologic problems.

Stores Affected

These products were sold nationwide but are likely no longer available for sale in stores.

Status

Ongoing

Recommendation

- **Consumers** should check their refrigerators and freezers and should not eat recalled bagged whole or baby carrots. If you have these products in your home, do not eat or use them, throw them away, and clean and sanitize surfaces they touched. If you purchased organic whole or baby carrots and stored them without the original packaging and don't know what brand they are, you should not eat them and should throw them away.
- **Retailers and distributors** that purchased recalled bagged whole or baby carrots should not sell this product and should notify their customers. These products are likely past shelf-life and no longer available for sale in stores, but distributors and retailers should check their refrigerators and freezers and should not serve or sell recalled bagged whole or baby carrots.
 - Retailers that are unsure if they received these products may need to contact their supplier. If you are unable to determine whether or not recalled product was received, you should discard the contents of the bins and use extra care to clean and sanitize the bins before refilling.
- **Retailers, distributors, and consumers** should follow [FDA's safe handling and cleaning advice](#) and use extra care in cleaning and sanitizing any surfaces and containers that may have come in contact with these products to reduce the risk of cross-contamination.
- Contact your healthcare provider if you think you may have [symptoms](#) of an *E. coli* infection after eating organic carrots.

Current Update

November 17, 2024

The FDA and CDC, in collaboration with state and local partners, are investigating illnesses in a multistate outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* O121:H19 infections linked to organic whole and baby carrots supplied by Grimmway Farms of Bakersfield, California.

State and local public health officials are interviewing people about the foods they ate in the week before they got sick. Of the 27 people interviewed, 26 (96%) reported eating carrots.

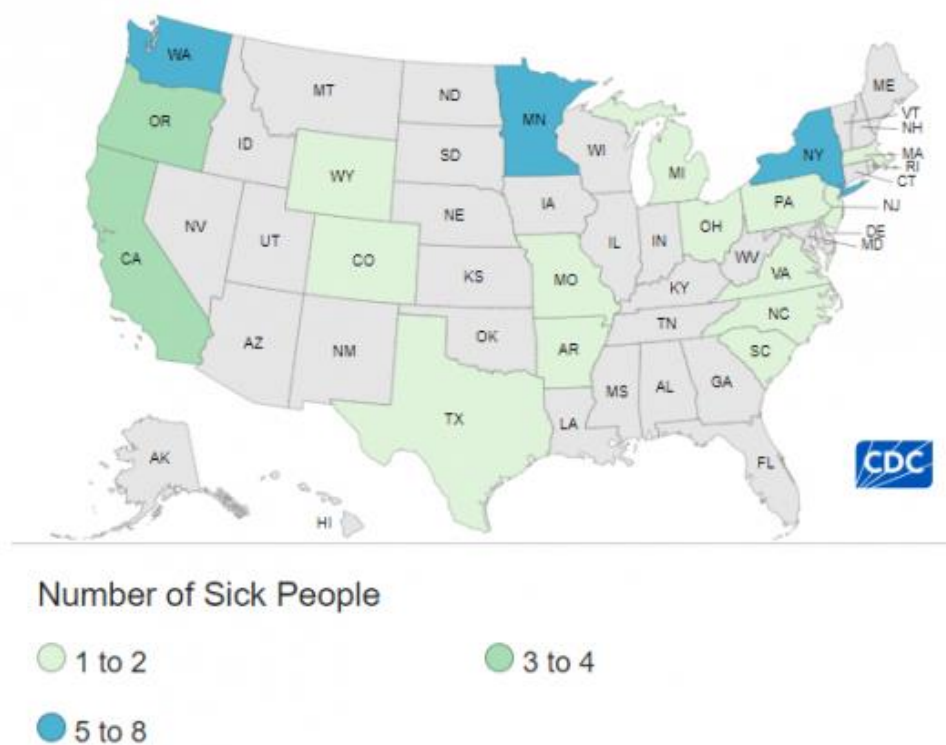
FDA's traceback investigation identified Grimmway Farms as the common supplier of organic whole and baby carrots in this outbreak. On November 16, 2024, Grimmway Farms initiated a voluntary recall of multiple quantities and brands of bagged organic whole and baby carrots and contacted their distributing customers. The retail-packaged organic whole carrots were in stores for purchase from August 14 through October 23, 2024. The organic baby carrots have different best-if-

used-by-dates ranging from September 11 through November 12, 2024. A full list of recalled products is below.

Although product is likely no longer on the market, carrots can last a long time when refrigerated or frozen. Consumers should check their refrigerators and freezers and discard these recalled products. Distributors and retailers that may have received recalled bagged organic whole and baby carrots should follow the recommendations above and contact their customers.

FDA is working with the firm to determine the source of contamination and whether additional products are affected. This advisory will be updated as information becomes available.

Case Count Map Provided by CDC



Case Count

- Total Illnesses: 39
- Hospitalizations: 15
- Deaths: 1
- Last Illness Onset: October 28, 2024
- States with Cases: AR, CA, CO, MA, MI, MN, MO, NC, NJ, NY, OH, OR, PA, SC, TX, VA, WA, WY

- Product Distribution: Nationwide

Recalled Products

On November 16, 2024, Grimmway Farms initiated a voluntary recall of multiple quantities and brands of bagged organic whole and baby carrots and contacted their distributing customers. Recalled products were shipped directly to retail distribution centers nationwide in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada. These products should no longer be in grocery stores but may be in consumers' refrigerators or freezers.

Organic whole carrots, which do not have a best-if-used-by date printed on the bag, but were available for purchase at retail stores from August 14 through October 23, 2024:

Label	Bag Sizes	Sample Product Image
365	1lb, 2lb, 5lb	
Bunny Luv	1lb, 2lb, 5lb, 10lb, 25lb	
Cal-Organic	1lb, 2lb, 5lb, 6lb, 10lb, 25lb	

Label	Bag Sizes	Sample Product Image
Compliments	2lb	
Full Circle	1lb, 2lb, 5lb	
Good & Gather	2lb	
GreenWise	1lb, 25lbs	
Marketside	2lb	

Label	Bag Sizes	Sample Product Image
Nature's Promise	1lb, 5lb	
O Organic	1lb, 2lb, 5lb, 10lb	
President's Choice	2lb	
Simple Truth	1lb, 2lb, 5lb	
Trader Joe's	1lb	

Label	Bag Sizes	Sample Product Image
Wegmans	1lb, 2lb, 5lb	
Wholesome Pantry	1lb, 2lb, 5lb	

Organic baby carrots with best-if-used-by-dates ranging from September 11 through November 12, 2024:

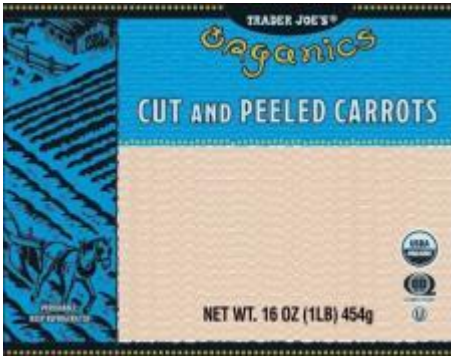
Label	Bag Sizes	Best if used by: From	Best if used by: Through	Sample Product Image
365	12oz, 1lb, 2lb	9/11/24	11/02/24	

Label	Bag Sizes	Best if used by: From	Best if used by: Through	Sample Product Image
Bunny Luv	1lb, 2lb, 3lb, 5lb	9/11/24	11/12/24	 A clear plastic bag of Bunny Luv Organic Baby Carrots. The bag has a green top section with the word 'ORGANIC' in a semi-circle. Below it is a cartoon bunny character. The text 'Bunny Luv' is in a large, stylized font, followed by 'Classic Cut and Peeled BABY CARROTS'. At the bottom, it says 'NET WT 16.0Z (1 LB) 454g'. There are also 'NO PRESERVATIVES' and 'WASH TO EAT' labels.
Cal-Organic	12oz, 1lb, 2lb, 2pk/2lbs	9/11/24	11/02/24	 A clear plastic bag of Cal-Organic Organic Peeled Carrots. The bag has a purple and blue design. The text 'Cal-Organic' is in a stylized font, followed by 'Organic Peeled Carrots' and 'Carottes Pelées Biologiques'. There are also 'NO PRESERVATIVES' and 'WASH TO EAT' labels.
Compliments	1lb	9/14/24	10/24/24	 A clear plastic bag of Compliments Organic Biologique Baby-Cut Carrots. The bag has a green and white design. The text 'Compliments' is in a cursive font, followed by 'Organic Biologique' and 'Baby-Cut Carrots' and 'Carottes coupées'. There are also 'NO PRESERVATIVES' and 'WASH TO EAT' labels.

Label	Bag Sizes	Best if used by: From	Best if used by: Through	Sample Product Image
Full Circle	1lb	9/14/24	10/24/24	
Good & Gather	12oz, 1lb	9/14/24	11/02/24	
GreenWise	1lb	9/11/24	10/26/24	
Grimmway Farms	25 lb bag	9/11/24	10/03/24	

Label	Bag Sizes	Best if used by: From	Best if used by: Through	Sample Product Image
Kroger	2lb	9/14/24	11/02/24	
LIDL	1lb	9/16/24	11/07/24	
Marketside	12oz, 1lb, 2lb	9/11/24	11/02/24	
Nature's Promise	1lb	9/13/24	10/25/24	
O Organic	12oz, 1lb, 2lb	9/11/24	11/02/24	

Label	Bag Sizes	Best if used by: From	Best if used by: Through	Sample Product Image
President's Choice	1lb, 2lb	9/11/24	11/02/24	
Raley's	1lb	9/14/24	10/23/24	
Simple Truth	1lb	9/14/24	10/20/24	

Label	Bag Sizes	Best if used by: From	Best if used by: Through	Sample Product Image
Sprouts	1lb, 2lb	9/13/24	11/04/24	
Trader Joe's	1lb	9/13/24	11/04/24	
Wegmans	12oz, 1lb, 2lb	9/14/24	11/02/24	

Label	Bag Sizes	Best if used by: From	Best if used by: Through	Sample Product Image
Wholesome Pantry	1lb, 2lb	9/16/24	11/07/24	