

Mexican mangoes may be linked to salmonella

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Daniella-brand mangoes imported from Mexico are being withdrawn from sale in the United States because of a possible link to salmonella. Splendid Products of Burlingame, Calif, which distributes the fruit, issued the voluntary recall Monday "out of an abundance of caution," says general manager Larry Nienkerk.

Canada's Food Inspection Agency says the mangoes are linked to 22 infections in Canada with a strain called salmonella Braenderup.

California has had 73 cases of this type of salmonella, and 67% of those people reported that they ate mangoes, says Anita Gore of the California Department of Public Health in Sacramento.

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Washington state has had six cases of salmonella that match the genetic fingerprint of the Canadian cases but has not yet linked them directly to the Mexican mangoes, says Donn Moyer of the Washington State Department of Health in Olympia. "We're still looking into it."

"The public's health remains our top priority. We continue to work with regulatory agencies. Anyone affected is in our thoughts," said Nienkerk.

Giant Food, which operates 173 supermarkets in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia, issued a recall of the mangoes Monday. The mangoes were sold between July 12 and Aug. 24 and carried a price look-up code of PLU 4959.

The Food and Drug Administration has oversight over fruits and vegetables and is still gathering information on this outbreak, spokeswoman Allison Moore said.

Customers who have purchased these mangoes should not eat them, Giant Food said in a release.

Eating foods contaminated with salmonella can cause salmonellosis, a common bacterial food-borne illness. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, salmonella infections can be life-threatening, especially to those with weak immune systems, such as infants and the elderly. Salmonellosis can cause diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever within eight to 72 hours, as well as chills, headache, nausea and vomiting that can last up to seven days.

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