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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Ron Klein, Food Safety Program Manager, (907) 269-7583

### **DEC Asks Public to Check Freezers for Recalled Totino's, JENO's Frozen Meat Pizzas**

*Pizzas distributed to Alaska; subject to recall due to possible E. coli contamination*

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is warning the public not to eat certain types of Totino's and JENO'S frozen pizzas as the pepperoni in the pizzas may contain *E. coli* O157:H7.

*E. coli* O157:H7 is a potentially deadly bacterium that can cause bloody diarrhea and dehydration. The very young, seniors and persons with compromised immune systems are the most susceptible to foodborne illness. Anyone concerned about an illness should contact a physician immediately.

General Mills Operations of Wellston, Ohio, is voluntarily recalling an undetermined amount of frozen meat pizza products because they may be linked to *E. coli* O157:H7 outbreaks in several states. No illnesses have been reported in Alaska.

The following products are subject to recall:

- 10.2-ounce packages of "Totino's The Original Crisp Crust Party Pizza Pepperoni."
- 10.2-ounce packages of "Totino's The Original Crisp Crust Party Pizza, Classic Pepperoni."
- 10.2-ounce packages of "Totino's The Original Crisp Crust Party Pizza, Pepperoni Trio."
- 10.7-ounce packages of "Totino's The Original Crisp Crust Party Pizza, Combination Sausage & Pepperoni Pizza."
- 10.5-ounce packages of "Totino's The Original Crisp Crust Party Pizza, Three Meat Sausage, Canadian Style Bacon & Pepperoni Pizza."

- 10.9-ounce packages of “Totino’s The Original Crisp Crust Party Pizza, Supreme Sausage & Pepperoni Pizza with Green Peppers & Onions.”
- 6.8-ounce packages of “JENO’S Crisp `n Tasty Pizza, Pepperoni.”
- 7.0-ounce packages of “JENO’S Crisp `n Tasty Pizza, Combination Sausage and Pepperoni Pizza.”
- 7.2-ounce packages of “JENO’S Crisp `N Tasty Pizza, Supreme Sausage and Pepperoni with Green Peppers and Onion Pizza.”

Each package also bears the establishment number “EST. 7750” inside the USDA (US Department of Agriculture) mark of inspection, as well as a “best if used by” date on or before “02 APR 08 WS.” The “best if used by date” applies to a 155-day shelf life; however, consumers are urged to look in their freezers for similar frozen pizza products and discard them if found.

The frozen meat pizza products subject to recall were produced on or before Oct. 30, and were distributed to retail establishments nationwide, including Alaska.

The problem was discovered following an investigation carried out by the Tennessee Department of Health in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) into a multi-state cluster of *E. coli* O157:H7 illnesses that may be linked to this product. Illnesses occurred in Illinois (1), Kentucky (3), Missouri (2), New York (2), Ohio (1), Pennsylvania (1), South Dakota (1), Tennessee (8), Virginia (1), and Wisconsin (1). Illness onset dates ranged between July 20 and Oct. 10. All patients have recovered. The CDC, state public health departments, and USDA Food Safety Inspection Service also continue investigations into the multi-state illness outbreak.

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Sign up to receive e-mail information on recalls and food alerts in Alaska at [www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/fss/recalls/food\\_recalls.html](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/fss/recalls/food_recalls.html)

