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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FDA Lists Alaska Grown Tomatoes as Safe to Eat

Alaska made the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) list of states whose tomatoes are not implicated in the latest national Salmonella incident. The FDA has determined that no Alaska grown tomatoes are implicated in the outbreak, clearing all Alaska-grown tomatoes for consumption.

Earlier, the FDA issued a warning that an outbreak of salmonella had been linked to consumption of raw red plum, red Roma, round red tomatoes and products containing these raw tomatoes. Cherry, grape and tomatoes on the vine have not been associated with the outbreak. There have been no reports of illness in Alaska.

DEC is also advising retailers selling tomatoes grown outside of Alaska to make sure they come from a state or county on FDA's 'states Not Implicated' list. To view the most recent list log onto the FDA website at: <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html#diagram>

To receive information via e-mail about food recalls or alerts, sign up for DEC's list serv at: http://list.state.ak.us/guest/RemoteListSummary/DEC_Food_Recall_list

Salmonella is a type of bacteria that causes a common form of food poisoning. Those affected may experience a variety of symptoms and illnesses such as fever, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, a Salmonella infection can result in more severe illnesses, some potentially life threatening. Anyone concerned about an illness should contact a physician immediately.

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