



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 19, 2009**

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## **Nestle Toll House Cookie Dough Products Recalled**

*DEC warns consumers not to eat or handle Nestle Toll House Prepackaged, Refrigerated Cookie Dough*

(Juneau, Alaska) The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is notifying the public of a product recall. Manufacturer Nestle USA has voluntarily recalled all varieties of prepackaged, refrigerated Toll House cookie dough due to a risk of contamination with E. coli O157:H7.

Eating the product raw could be dangerous. Cooking could also pose risks by contaminating kitchen surfaces with E. coli. DEC recommends that consumers throw away any packages of Toll House cookie dough that have been opened or return unopened packages to retail outlets.

The recall is based on an ongoing epidemiological study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and several state and local health departments. According to the study there have been 66 reports of illness in more than two dozen states since March 2009. To date, twenty-five people have been hospitalized, seven with a severe complication called Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome. Several of those sickened had eaten the raw cookie dough. There have been no deaths.

Some of the affected cookie dough has been sold in Alaska. There have been no reported illnesses related to the product in Alaska.

E. coli O157:H7 is a potentially deadly bacterium that can cause bloody diarrhea and dehydration. The very young, seniors and people with compromised immune systems are the most susceptible to severe complications of this food-borne illness. Anyone experiencing any of these symptoms should contact a health-care provider immediately.

For additional information about E. coli, visit the CDC's Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/>. The FDA site has additional information on the recall at <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm167954.htm>. Health-care providers should report all suspected or confirmed cases of E. coli to the Alaska Section of Epidemiology at (907) 269-8000 or (800) 478-0084 after hours. For information about safe food handling, log onto [www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/fss/foodborne/foodborne.htm](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/fss/foodborne/foodborne.htm).