



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 16, 2009

Contact: Ron Klein, Food Safety Program Manager, (907) 269-7583, cell: (907) 351-4184

Alaska DEC Gives Update on National Salmonella Outbreak and Potentially Affected Kellogg Products in Alaska

Kellogg Company has taken the precautionary measure of removing from retail store shelves four peanut butter products. They are: Austin® and Keebler® branded Toasted Peanut Butter Sandwich Crackers, Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich Crackers, Cheese and Peanut Butter Sandwich Crackers and Peanut Butter-Chocolate Sandwich Crackers.

These products may contain peanut butter manufactured by Peanut Corporation of America (PCA). It is the focus of a Food and Drug Administration investigation into a recent Salmonella outbreak thought to be caused by tainted peanut butter.

The implicated peanut butter, mainly distributed to institutions, was not sent to Alaska. However, the listed cracker products have been found on store shelves in Alaska. To date, no illnesses have been reported in Alaska. Furthermore, Kellogg Company's investigation has not indicated any concerns, nor has it received consumer illness complaints about these products.

Nonetheless, Kellogg Company is taking precautionary measures. That includes putting a hold on inventory in its control. It is removing product from store shelves, and encouraging consumers to refrain from eating these products until regulators complete their investigation of PCA and Kellogg provides further information. Consumers with questions or seeking a product refund can call the Kellogg Consumer Response Center at 888-314-2060.

DEC recommends consumers refrain from eating these products until more information is available.

Symptoms of Salmonella include diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12–72 hours after infection. Infection is usually diagnosed with a culture from a stool sample. The illness usually lasts 4 – 7 days. Although most people recover without treatment, severe infections may occur. Infants, elderly persons, and people with impaired immune systems are more likely than others to develop severe illness. In severe infection, Salmonella spreads from the intestines to the bloodstream and then to other body sites; death can occur if the person is not treated promptly with antibiotics.

If you have eaten these products and have these symptoms, please see your health care provider.

#

For more information about food borne illnesses log onto DEC's website at:

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/fss/foodborne/foodborne.htm>

Sign up for recall alerts by email at

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/fss/recalls/recallsalerts.htm>