

Larry Hartig
Commissioner

P.O. Box 111800
Juneau, AK 99811-1800
www.dec.alaska.gov



Ty Keltner
Information Officer
907.465.5009
cell: 907.388.8822
ty.keltner@alaska.gov

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 13-58

Nov. 6, 2013

Kimberly Stryker, FSS Program Manager, (907) 269-7583

Reser's Fine Foods Recalls Ready-to-Eat Products for *Listeria monocytogenes* Contamination

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – Reser's Fine Foods has issued an expanded recall of its refrigerated, ready-to-eat products because they may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*.

Listeria is an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in children, frail or elderly people and those with weakened immune systems. *Listeria* infection can cause miscarriages and stillbirths among pregnant woman. Otherwise healthy people may suffer short term symptoms such as high fever, severe headache, stiffness, nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhea.

The company issued its initial recall notice on Oct. 22, 2013, identifying 22,800 pounds of affected product. On Oct. 26, 2013, the company expanded its recall, including products produced between Sept. 5 and Oct. 9, 2013. In addition to previously identified ready-to-eat cold salads, coleslaws, baked beans, salsas, spreads, and dips, Reser's is now including chicken, ham, and beef products produced at the Topeka, Kan., salad facility produced between Oct. 10 and Oct. 25, 2013.

Affected product packages are marked with a Use-by-Date or Best By Date that is followed by the plant identifier code 20. Products containing chicken, ham, or beef will also bear the establishment number, "EST. 13520" or "P-13520" located inside the USDA mark of inspection.

For more information and to view a *full* list of recalled products, see:

- USDA: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/recalls-and-public-health-alerts/recall-case-archive/archive/2013/recall-059-2013-expansion-2>.
- FDA: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm373511.htm>.

Alaska DEC has confirmed these products were available in retail stores and distributed to food services in Alaska. To date, no illnesses or reactions have been reported in Alaska or elsewhere.

Consumers who purchased the product should not eat the product and should return it to the place of purchase or discard it. Media and consumers with questions should contact Reser's Fine Foods Consumer Hotline at 888-257-7913 from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. EST.

For more information on recalls affecting Alaskans, visit DEC's website: <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/recallsalerts.html>.

#