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IN THE NEWS

Update to E. Coli Outbreak Associated with Romaine Lettuce

The CDC has announced an expansion of recommendations to those previously made regarding the Yuma, Arizona regional farming area and romaine lettuce. In the April 13, 2018 advisory, the CDC recommended avoiding precut/prepackaged romaine lettuce from the Yuma, AZ area, but stated that whole heads and hearts of romaine lettuce were OK.

Further reports of cases and investigation of those cases have shown a need to amend the recommendations to include avoiding buying and eating ALL romaine lettuce from the Yuma, Arizona growing region. Also, avoiding all romaine lettuce at home, in stores or in restaurants, unless it can be confidently confirmed that the romaine lettuce IS NOT from the Yuma area.

An update on the case count and the states affected includes 53 cases in 17 states. See this link for states and case counts by state:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2018/o157h7-04-18/map.html>

A fact sheet developed by the CDC is included in this link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/images/Ecoli-Factsheet-1-200px.jpg>

It should also be noted that *Consumer Reports* has suggested that ALL romaine lettuce should be avoided since it may be very difficult to ascertain what area romaine lettuce came from whether buying it for home or having it in a salad or some other way, when eating away from home. Their latest article is here:

<https://www.consumerreports.org/e-coli/cdc-expands-romaine-lettuce-warning/>

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