



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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For Immediate Release: February 19, 2009

09-010

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH URGES CONSUMERS TO CHECK FOR
RECALLED PEANUT PRODUCTS**

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) is advising the public not to eat peanut products or feed them to their pets if they are unsure whether the product has been recalled by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

To date, a total of five cases linked with the nationwide outbreak of salmonellosis have been identified in Hawai'i. Although none of the known Hawai'i cases of *Salmonella* Typhimurium has had a verifiable exposure to any of the peanut products identified on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's recall list, the DOH is advising consumers to take precautions.

"If you have a peanut product on the recall list we recommend the product be discarded," said Lynn Nakasone, chief of the DOH Food and Drug Branch. "We also advise that you refrain from eating other peanut products such as cookies, crackers, cereal, candy and ice cream until you are sure those products are not part of this nationwide recall. DOH is concerned that consumers are not aware how broad the recall of peanut products has become and urges everyone to check the product recall list thoroughly and often."

A list of recalled peanut products can be found on the DOH website at www.hawaii.gov/health by clicking on the FDA search tool on the right side of the page. Or, visit the FDA website at

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www.fda.gov or the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov for more information. Consumers who do not have access to the Internet may obtain recall information by calling FDA's information line at 1-888-SAFEFOOD (1-888-7233-3663) or CDC's consumer information hotline staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636).

An outbreak of more than 600 illnesses of salmonellosis nationwide has led to a recall of many peanut-containing products. To date, more than 2,100 products in 17 categories have been voluntarily recalled by more than 200 companies, and the list continues to grow. Health inspectors are visually checking store shelves to ensure recalled products are removed from sale.

Salmonellosis is the illness caused by various strains of *Salmonella* bacteria. Persons infected with *Salmonella* may develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12 to 72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days and most persons recover without treatment. However, the diarrhea may be so severe that the patient needs to be hospitalized. The elderly, infants, and those with impaired immune systems are more likely to have a severe illness. People who think they may have become ill from eating peanut products are advised to contact their physician.

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