

Kroger Company Issues Voluntary Recall of Certain Frozen Berry Products Because of Possible Health Risks

Contact: Michelle Corson, Public Relations Officer, (661) 868-0288

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Bakersfield, CA – Kroger Company has issued a voluntary recall of certain frozen berry products manufactured by Townsend Farms due to concerns over potential Hepatitis A contamination. Kroger operates grocery retail stores under many banners including: Kroger, Ralphs, Food 4 Less, and Foods Co. Kern County Environmental Health has been notified that product may have been distributed to stores in Kern County and is currently verifying that products are no longer being sold. Details about this recall can be found at the U.S. Food & Drug Administration website: <https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/kroger-recalls-select-frozen-private-selection-berries-possible-health-risk>.

Townsend Farm has also notified Costco regarding a potentially contaminated frozen berry product, but to date, product has only been identified as distributed in San Diego, Los Angeles, and Hawaii. <https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/townsend-farms-inc-notifies-costco-possible-health-risk-and-recalls-conventional-frozen-kirkland>.

“We encourage residents to check their freezers for these recalled products and discard them immediately,” says Matt Constantine, Director of Kern County Public Health Services Department.

Hepatitis A is an infection that results from exposure to the Hepatitis A virus, including by eating contaminated food. It can range from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious illness lasting several months. Illness generally occurs within 15 to 50 days of exposures and symptoms include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, jaundice, joint pain, dark urine, and pale stool. Anyone with symptoms of Hepatitis A should contact their healthcare provider.

Hepatitis A can be prevented by vaccination. Check your immunization record to determine if you have received two doses of the Hepatitis A vaccination. If you have consumed the recalled product and have not received two doses of the Hepatitis vaccination, please contact your healthcare provider. Vaccination can prevent illness if given within two weeks of exposure to contaminated food.

There have been no locally reported illnesses associated with this recall.

For more information call (661) 321-3000 or visit www.kernpublichealth.com or www.fda.gov.

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