

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following is a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recall notice. If warranted, the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP) will initiate an ALFOODACT. FYI, I've pasted a copy of the FDA Recall Notice below:

SUBJECT: FDA Recall Notice: Sprouters Northwest, Inc.

DSCP Issue Date: June 7, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Statement June 3, 2004

Media Inquiries: 301-827-6250

Inquiries: 888-INFO-FDA

FDA Statement

Sprouters Northwest, Inc. Recalls Raw Alfalfa Sprouts Due to Possible Health Risk

The Food and Drug Administration has been alerted that Sprouters Northwest, Inc. of Kent Washington is recalling 2, 3, and 5 lbs. institutional trays of its raw alfalfa sprouts sent to various food institutions because they may be linked to a recent increase in Salmonellosis in Oregon and Washington State. To date, 12 cases of *Salmonella Bovismorbificans* possibly linked to the consumption of raw alfalfa sprouts have been reported. In light of these outbreaks, FDA is reiterating its previous alerts about eating raw sprouts. Those persons who wish to reduce the risk of food borne illness from sprouts are advised not to eat raw sprouts. This advice is particularly important for children, the elderly, and persons with weakened immune systems, all of who are at high risk of developing serious illness due to food borne disease. People in high-risk categories should not eat raw sprouts.

Salmonella Bovismorbificans is an organism rarely seen in the United States that can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy persons infected with *Salmonella* often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, infection with *Salmonella* can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses such as arterial infections (i.e., infected aneurysms), endocarditis (swelling of the lining the heart) and arthritis. Most cases resolve without the need for medical attention.

FDA is working closely with state officials and the company to determine the cause of this problem and what steps can be taken to combat it. The agency will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Food service institutions, which have the recalled product, are urged not to use it but to instead contact the company at

(253) 872- 0577.

Individuals who may have experienced any of the above symptoms after eating raw alfalfa sprouts should contact their physician or local department of health.

DSCP Instructions:

- (1) Secure in a "Medical Hold" status to provide assurance of no further issue/sale/use of the item.
- (2) Return recalled product to manufacturer by way of the vendor representative.
- (3) **As the potential for adverse health consequences exists**, activities known to have issued/sold the above items are authorized to notify their customers.

The Point Of Contact for this Vendor Recall notice is [CW3 Melinda Strother](#), Consumer Safety Officer, at DSCP-HS. VOICE, DSN: 444-7746/8461, Commercial (215) 737-7746/8461, or by FAX, DSN: 444-7526, or Commercial, (215) 737-7526.

Very Respectfully,
CW3 Melinda Strother
Consumer Safety Officer, DSCP
Product Services Office
Voice: (215) 737-7746
Fax: (215) 737-7526
E-mail: melinda.strother@dla.mil