



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM



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DPHSS Warns of Salmonella Risk with Cantaloupes from Agropecuaria Montelibano

The Director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) is informing the public that the recent nationwide import alert of cantaloupes from Agropecuaria Montelibano, a Honduran grower and packer, expands to Guam. The department has learned that several cases of implicated cantaloupes were imported and sold on island.

According to the information obtained from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the cantaloupes from Agropecuaria Montelibano have been epidemiologically linked to approximately 50 cases of salmonellosis nationwide. It is suspected that the contamination of the Salmonella bacteria is on the rind of these cantaloupes. Symptoms of foodborne Salmonella infection include nausea, vomiting, fever, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. The infection can be life-threatening for individuals of poor health or with weakened immune systems.

The Division of Environmental Health (DEH) of this department has been in contact with major distributors of produce on island. The division has tentatively identified three vendors that had imported and distributed the implicated cantaloupes. Based on our communications with them, approximately 415 cases (~15,000 lbs.) of cantaloupes from Agropecuaria Montelibano have been imported into Guam. Any remaining cantaloupes still in their possession were voluntarily removed from distribution. The inspectors of DEH have been working with the three vendors in contacting local retailers and wholesalers who received the possibly contaminated cantaloupes. While many were returned to the importer; however, several cases had already been sold to consumers. The department will continue its effort in locating all remaining cantaloupes that have yet to be accounted for.

The department is recommending to the public and retail businesses that if they have any cantaloupes in their possession, they should contact their point of purchase to rule out that the fruit is not from Agropecuaria Montelibano. Any person or business in possession of the implicated cantaloupes is encouraged to throw them away. Individuals who may have recently eaten cantaloupe and experienced any of the symptoms of salmonellosis should contact their healthcare professional.

For questions, please contact the Division of Environmental Health at 735-7221/7222.

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