



Weekly Alert August 8th, 2024

Deadly listeria outbreak linked to deli meats

Growing number of Texas adults hearing about it

Since July 26, more than 7 million pounds of popular Boar's Head deli meats have been [recalled](#) due to their link to a listeria outbreak. So far, 43 people in 13 states have been hospitalized, and three have died. Among Texas adults surveyed, 44% heard about the outbreak this week, up from 40% the week before.

What is listeria and how does it get into deli meat?

Listeria bacteria is found in soil, water, and decaying vegetation. It can easily contaminate food during harvest, processing, or storage. In the current outbreak, Listeria was first detected in an unopened loaf of Boar's Head liverwurst at a [Maryland](#) store. Boar's Head brand is sold nationwide.

Who is hearing about the outbreak?

Among 595 adults surveyed in five states, awareness of the Listeria outbreak was highest in Texas (44%), followed by Maryland (41%), Missouri and Nebraska (37% each); awareness was lowest in Colorado (29%). Awareness was higher among adults ages 50+ compared to those younger than 50 (54% vs 30%) and higher for Blacks than Whites (42% vs. 35%).

How dangerous are listeria infections?

Eating food contaminated with listeria can cause mild [symptoms](#) like fever, muscle aches, and digestive issues. However, pregnant women, people older than 65, and those with weakened immune systems are at higher risk for serious complications, including meningitis and sepsis. Consult your healthcare provider if you suspect these symptoms.

Do you have the recalled deli meats?

The recalled meats were distributed nationwide and have plant number EST. 12612 or P-12612 on the USDA label. Don't eat recalled meat. Discard it or return it for a refund.

Community organizations in Texas can help protect higher-risk residents from contaminated foods by sharing the resources below and checking for a complete list of the

recalled Boar's Head deli meats products [here](#).

This week's report is based on responses from a panel of 595 adult residents of Texas (n = 77), St. Louis, MO (n = 142), Omaha, NE (n = 82), Baltimore, MD (n = 170) and Colorado (n = 124) surveyed August 3 - 5, 2024. Explore these data and more at [iHeard Texas](#).

Shareable Resources

Click to download resources to share in your community.

Remember to include [#iHeardTexas](#) [#iHeardTX](#) when sharing on social media!

USDA Recall Facts

Food safety recall
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How does a USDA food recall work?



A USDA recall...

...removes unsafe or mislabeled meat, poultry, or eggs from the food supply.



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1

Taking action

- The USDA, manufacturer or consumer reports a problem
- A level of risk is assigned to the product
- The product is recalled and the public notified



2

When food is recalled, it is given a level of health risk:

- **Class I:** There is a strong chance that eating the food will make you sick or could even cause death.
- **Class II:** There is a small chance that eating the food could make you sick.
- **Class III:** Eating the food will not make you sick.

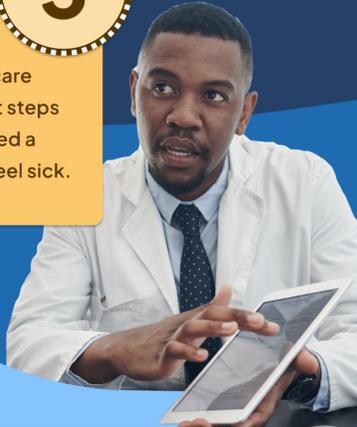


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3

Tell your doctor

Talk to your healthcare provider about next steps if you have consumed a recalled food and feel sick.



4

Next steps:

Return or throw away the recalled product. Clean the area where the product was stored to prevent cross-contamination.



Source: U. S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service

Suggested Caption:

The USDA protects people by assuring the safety of meat, poultry and egg products. Current recalls can be found on the USDA website (for meat, poultry and eggs) or the FDA website. Share this information with someone you know!

www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts
www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls

#iHeardTexas #USDA #FDA

Download here

Recalled Meat Products

Do you eat meat products?
Check the labels!



USDA safety alert:

More than 7 million pounds of Boar's Head deli meats have been recalled due to a listeria outbreak.

Recalled products were shipped nationwide. 13 states were affected so far.

As of Aug. 8, 2024

Source: CDC

As of August 8:

43
illnesses

43
hospitalizations

3
deaths

Across 13 states

Source: CDC



Recalled: Boar's Head and Old Country brands of ...

- Sliced deli meat including liverwurst, ham, salami, bologna and other products
- Packaged meat and poultry products

Look for products with:

- Establishment numbers "EST. 12612" or "P-12612" inside the USDA mark of inspection
- Sell by dates between July 29 and October 17

Check the USDA website to view a full list of products.



Sources: CDC and U.S. Department of Agriculture

Suggested Caption:

Since July 26, more than 7 million pounds of popular Boar's Head products have been recalled due to their link to a listeria outbreak. Stay up to date on this recall, and check your fridge for recalled products you should throw out or return.

#iHeardTexas #USDA #ListeriaOutbreak #FoodSafety #DeliMeat

Download here

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Sources: CDC and U.S. Department of Agriculture

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Combined Resource

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