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FDA and CDC Warn Consumers to Refrain from Eating All Fresh Jalapeño Peppers

(Santa Fe, NM) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued advised consumers today to refrain from eating all fresh jalapeños because of a link between the food and Salmonella Saintpaul.

“New Mexico will closely monitor any effects of jalapeños related to this announcement,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “We will keep restaurants, grocery stores and other establishments aware of updates related to this issue.”

“We will keep informing the public about the latest developments into the federal investigation so people can make informed decisions about the food they eat,” said Health Secretary Dr. Alfredo Vigil.

FDA found jalapeños contaminated with the Salmonella Saintpaul strain recently linked to illnesses. However, that agency recently announced tomatoes are safe for consumption. (CDC Link: <http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/saintpaul/#advice>)

The Environment Department, by law, can not issue a recall of the jalapeños until the source of the contamination is clear.

The New Mexico Department of Health is investigating 107 cases of Salmonella Saintpaul in 19 counties of New Mexico. Patients report becoming sick between May 11 and July 7. The Department of Health continues to work with investigators from the CDC as they conduct more extensive interviews of sick patients and well individuals from the same neighborhoods to learn more about the national outbreak.

For more information, call Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314.

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