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June 20, 2008  
For Immediate Release

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**New Mexico Environment Department Announces Tomato Embargo**

*New Mexico Environment Department and New Mexico Department of Health Continue to Investigate Salmonella Saintpaul Outbreak and Offer Advice to Consumers, Retailers and Restaurants*

(Santa Fe, N.M.) The New Mexico Environment Department and the New Mexico Department of Health recommend that no one purchase, consume, sell or serve food containing raw red plum, raw red Roma, or raw red round tomatoes grown and harvested in Mexico or Florida with the exceptions of Baja California Norte in Mexico and specific Florida counties. The departments' recommendations are based on U.S. Food and Drug Administration's investigation and will be revised as FDA updates its information.

"The Environment Department is stepping up its activities with tomato distributors in the state to assure that no tomatoes are being sold from specific areas of concern in Mexico and Florida," New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry said. "Any tomatoes identified as coming from those areas will be embargoed."

The departments continue to work together to investigate the source of contaminated tomatoes linked to the *Salmonella* Saintpaul national outbreak and to inform the public, retailers and restaurants that the number of U.S. cases has increased to 552 from 32 states and the District of Columbia. Numerous cases were sick weeks ago but just recently confirmed as part of the national outbreak.

New Mexico reports 78 cases from 17 counties to date. The most recent onset of illness among New Mexico persons was on June 11.

New Mexico residents can also report their illness to the Environment Department at (505) 476-8600 or any local Environment Department field office. The Department will investigate links between the illness and suspect food establishments and arrange for tomato testing.

FDA has provided information that consumers should not eat raw red plum, raw red Roma, or raw red round tomatoes grown and harvested in Mexico (except Baja California Norte) or Florida (except the following counties if they have a certificate issued by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services:

Jackson, Gadsden, Leon, Jefferson, Madison, Suwannee, Hamilton, Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Hardee, DeSoto, Sarasota, Highlands, Pasco, Sumter, Citrus, Hernando, Charlotte). As FDA adds other states and areas to the

More information about areas in the U.S. and elsewhere that have grown and harvested tomatoes that have not been associated with this outbreak, access the FDA website at:

<http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html> .

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