

CARIBBEAN EPIDEMIOLOGY CENTRE (CAREC)



*Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the
World Health Organization*
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CAREC ALERT!

OUR REF NO: 092/2007/Epid

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US FIRM RECALLS GROUND BEEF PRODUCTS DUE TO POSSIBLE *E.COLI* O157:H7 CONTAMINATION

The United States Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS), CDC, and several state health departments are investigating a multi-state outbreak of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 infections. On September 29, the USDA issued a notice about a recall of 21.7 million pounds of frozen ground beef patties. The outbreak is concentrated in the northeastern United States with cases in Maine, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Additional cases have been identified in Indiana, Ohio and Florida. Each recalled package bears the establishment number "Est. 9748" inside the USDA mark of inspection and has a sell-by date between "SEP 25 07" and "SEP 25 08." At this time, there is no evidence to suggest that these frozen ground beef products were exported from the United States to any CAREC member countries. However, please review additional information on the recalled products at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/040_2007_Expanded_Recall.pdf .