



Ohio Department of Health
246 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

www.odh.ohio.gov

News Release

John R. Kasich / Governor
Theodore E. Wymyslo, M.D. / Director



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Office of Public Affairs
614-644-8562

July 5, 2013

Consumers Warned to Discard Cheese Products Linked to Multi-State Listeria Outbreak

Pregnant women, newborns and adults with weakened immune systems most at risk

COLUMBUS—The Ohio Department Health (ODH) urges consumers who may have purchased certain specialty cheese products linked to a multi-state outbreak of *Listeria monocytogenes* infection (listeriosis) to dispose of them. The suspected products are Les Frères, Petit Frère, and Petit Frère with Truffles and are made by Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese Company, a Wisconsin producer.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as of July 3, 2013, five people infected with the same strain of listeriosis have been identified in four Midwestern states and the total includes one death. There are no deaths in Ohio but a 52-year-old Cuyahoga County woman was hospitalized and her illness has been linked to the outbreak strain.

Listeriosis infection can cause serious illness, particularly to vulnerable populations including newborns, pregnant women and people with compromised immune systems. Listeriosis symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance, and convulsions. Symptoms often begin three weeks after infection, but can take anywhere from three to 70 days. Approximately 30 cases of listeria occur in Ohio each year.

“Don’t take chances with your health,” said Dr. Ted Wymyslo, director of the Ohio Department of Health. “Consumers should check their homes for these brands of cheeses and should throw them away. If you are experiencing symptoms, please contact your health care provider immediately.”

On July 3, 2013, Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese Company voluntarily recalled the products and sent notices to retailers, restaurants and other food service operators advising them to pull the products and not sell them until further information is available.

The number of ill persons identified by state are: Illinois (1), Indiana (1), Minnesota (2), and Ohio (1).

- Ill persons range in age from 31 years to 67 years.
- Dates for ill persons’ diagnoses ranged from May 20, 2013 to June 17, 2013.

###

NOTE: These products were distributed nationwide through retail and food service outlets as well as by mail orders. For more information on the outbreak investigation visit the FDA website at:
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm359588.htm>