



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Ashwin Vasani, MD, PhD
Commissioner

2024 Health Alert #5: Recall of Boar's Head Deli Meat Due to Possible Contamination with *Listeria monocytogenes* (NYS)

August 6, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

Please see the below Health Advisory from the New York State Department of Health regarding a [recall of Boar's Head deli meat products](#) due to possible contamination with *Listeria monocytogenes*, discovered as part of an ongoing [outbreak of listeriosis](#) linked to Boar's Head products. **Cases of listeriosis associated with this outbreak have been [identified in 6 NYC residents](#).**

Listeria bacteria can contaminate food and be especially harmful for people who are pregnant, are age 65 years or older, or have a weakened immune system. Remain vigilant for any new cases of listeriosis in people in these high-risk groups who may have consumed Boar's Head deli meat products in the last 30 days.

Report laboratory-confirmed cases of listeriosis to the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Provider Access Line at 866-692-3641.

Laboratories are also required to forward all *Listeria* isolates to the Public Health Laboratory (PHL) using the eOrder system (a816-phleorder.nyc.gov/PHLeOrder) and include a printed copy of the eOrder form with the specimen. The isolate should be subcultured on appropriate media and shipped at room temperature. For further details, refer to PHL's [Tests and Services Manual](#) or the [eOrder User Guide](#). Call PHL at 212-671-5849 if you have any questions.

For more information:

- [CDC's Listeria Webpage for Health Professionals and Laboratories](#)
- [CDC's Listeria Webpage \(General\)](#)
- [USDA Recalls and Public Health Alerts](#)
- [FDA Recalls and Safety Alerts](#)



Department of Health

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Commissioner

JOHANNE E. MORNE, M.S.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

DATE: 07/31/2024

TO: Healthcare Providers, Long Term Care Facilities, Healthcare Facilities, Clinical Laboratories, and Local Health Departments

FROM: New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Division of Epidemiology, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control (BCDC)

UPDATE: Recall of Boar's Head Deli Meat

Please distribute immediately to: Clinical Laboratories, Hospitals, Long Term Care Facilities, Local Health Departments, Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Facility Food Service, Emergency Medicine, Infectious Disease, Infection Prevention and Control, Epidemiology, Laboratory Medicine, Medical Directors, Directors of Nursing, and all patient care areas

The purpose of this advisory is to alert you to a recall of Boar's Head products, ensure you or your food service department are no longer serving these products, and remind you that any cases of listeriosis must be promptly reported to your local health department.

Summary

- **UPDATE:** Boar's Head Provisions Co. has expanded its voluntary recall to now include 71 different products under the "Boar's Head" and "Old Country" brand names, totaling approximately 7 million pounds of ready-to-eat meat and poultry products.
 - These were produced in the same facility at the same time as a product that has tested positive for the outbreak strain of *Listeria monocytogenes*.
 - For the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) statement:
<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls-alerts/boars-head-provisions-co--expands-recall-ready-eat-meat-and-poultry-products-due>
 - For a full list of recalled products:
https://www.fsis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media_file/documents/Recall-023-2024-EXP-Product_Information_Sheet.pdf
 - For a list of product labels:
https://www.fsis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/food_label_pdf/2024-07/Recall-023-2024-EXP-Labels.pdf
- Any of these products in your facility should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase. The FSIS recommends facilities clean and sanitize all food and non-food surfaces, including refrigerators, and discard any open meats and cheeses to prevent risk of cross-contamination.
- The contaminated product was discovered as part of a national listeriosis outbreak, which includes New York residents, linked to deli meats.

- Consumption of food contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, a serious infection that primarily affects people who are pregnant, aged 65 or older, or with weakened immune systems. Less commonly, persons outside these risk groups are affected. Additional information about this investigation can be found on the CDC investigation notice, <https://www.cdc.gov/listeria/outbreaks/delimeats-7-24/index.html>.
- Listeriosis is reportable to the local health department (LHD) of the county in which the patient resides.
 - Outside of NYC, contact information for local health departments is available at: https://www.health.ny.gov/contact/contact_information. If unable to reach the LHD where the patient resides, contact the NYSDOH Bureau of Communicable Disease Control at 518-473-4439.
 - For NYC residents, report to the NYC Health Department's Provider Access Line at 866-692-3641.