

# Chief Health Officer Alert

5 February 2016

Status: Active

## Pre-packaged salad products linked to *Salmonella* outbreak

<b>Status:</b>	Active
<b>Date issued:</b>	5 February 2016
<b>Issued by:</b>	Dr Roscoe Taylor, Acting Chief Health Officer
<b>Issued to:</b>	Health professionals and consumers

### Key messages

- The consumption of a range of **Tripod Farmers pre-packaged salad products** has been linked to an outbreak of salmonellosis in Victoria
- The company has initiated a voluntary food recall of a number of different salad products listed on the [Food Standards Australia and New Zealand \(FSANZ\)](#) website with a range of use by dates, up to and including 14 February 2016.
- Salmonellosis is a form of gastroenteritis caused by the bacterium *Salmonella*. The particular species involved in this outbreak is *Salmonella anatum*.
- Symptoms include diarrhoea, fever, headache, stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and dehydration.
- Symptoms can take between 6 to 72 hours to develop after a food contaminated with *Salmonella* is eaten and will be more severe depending on the amount ingested, the consumer's age and general health.
- Anyone who has consumed these products and is unwell **with these symptoms** should consult their GP.
- GPs should test anyone presenting with symptoms of salmonellosis who report consuming any of these products in the three days prior to their onset of diarrhoea.
- *Salmonella* is a notifiable condition.

### What is the issue?

Consumers have been warned to avoid eating a range of **Tripod Farmers pre-packaged salad** products that are distributed under a number of brand names which may be contaminated with *Salmonella*. This warning follows the identification of a link between consumption of these products and an outbreak of salmonellosis in Victoria. The products are widely distributed to a range of outlets including major supermarkets.

### Who is at risk?

Anyone who has consumed the salad products listed on the FSANZ recall page with the best before dates leading up to and including 14 February may be at risk.

The elderly, anyone with another medical condition that weakens their immune system or anyone who is malnourished may be more prone to getting salmonellosis and experience more severe symptoms.

## Symptoms

- **Symptoms** of salmonellosis usually occur between 6 to 72 hours after you ingest the bacteria. The most common symptoms include diarrhoea, which may contain blood or mucous, fever, headache, stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, dehydration, especially among infants and the elderly. In rare cases, septicaemia may develop as a complication of salmonellosis
- **Transmission** occurs when *Salmonella* bacteria are ingested, usually through consumption of contaminated food and sometimes through close contact with an infected person who has diarrhoea.

## Prevention/treatment

- The recalled products should not be consumed.
- Anyone who has consumed these products and is unwell (has symptoms), should consult their GP who will triage by severity of clinical symptoms and arrange for appropriate testing, usually a faecal sample to be tested.
- Salmonella infection is usually diagnosed by isolation of Salmonella from faeces and sometimes is isolated in blood or other clinical specimens.
- Any person with symptoms of salmonellosis should be encouraged to practice good personal hygiene, including thorough hand washing.
- Facilities preparing food for vulnerable clients are urged to check that foods currently in use are not sourced from the recalled product range.
- Any institution that has provided recalled products to vulnerable clients should where possible, inform clients of the need to look out for symptoms as described in this alert.

## More information

### Clinical information:

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/disease-information-advice/salmonellosis>

### Consumer information:

[Better Health Channel](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/gastroenteritis-salmonellosis) (<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/gastroenteritis-salmonellosis>)

For an updated list of the recalled products: Food Standards Australia New Zealand

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/industry/foodrecalls/recalls/Pages/Pre-packaged-salad-leaves.aspx>

### Contacts:

Department of Health and Human Services Communicable Disease and Prevention Control: 1300 651 160

Department of Health and Human Services Food Safety: 1300 364 352

Yours sincerely



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Acting Chief Health Officer

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