

Oregonians sickened by Veggie Booty; snack food is recalled

by *Bend_Weekly_News_Sources*

State and federal public health officials warned consumers today not to eat Veggie Booty snack food. An ongoing investigation has identified Veggie Booty as the source of a multi-state outbreak of salmonellosis, with cases occurring as far back as early March.

The makers of Veggie Booty, Robert's American Gourmet, on Thursday announced an immediate recall of all Veggie Booty products.

Oregon is one of 17 states to have received reports of salmonellosis cases linked to the outbreak, and has been involved in the investigation that identified the source. At least 51 cases have been identified nationally, almost all toddlers or infants.

One case has been reported in Oregon, according to William E. Keene, senior epidemiologist in the Oregon Department of Human Services Public Health Division.

"At this time we don't have enough information to be able to limit the recall to particular production lots," Keene said. "Anyone who has packages of Veggie Booty in their home should return it to the store or throw it away."

Salmonellosis is a bacterial infection that can cause diarrhea, fever and vomiting. Symptoms usually develop within one to five days after eating contaminated food. Most people get better without the need for medical attention, but Keene advises anyone who has eaten Veggie Booty and is ill with bloody diarrhea or diarrhea with fever to contact their health care provider.

Nationwide, most of the individuals affected reported bloody diarrhea. Five individuals were hospitalized, but all have been released. The outbreak investigation is ongoing.

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