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## **Peanut Butter Recall**

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Public Health Officials across the country are conducting a very active investigation across the United States to determine the source of Salmonella Typhimurium outbreak. There have been 486 cases reported across the United States and one case to date in Alabama. Tennessee has had 9 cases, Georgia 6 cases and Mississippi 3 cases.

Salmonella Typhimurium, Salmonella, is a bacteria that is occasionally found in food that causes a food borne illness. Preliminary results have identified contaminated peanut containing products as a potential source of the bacteria. Historically eating raw eggs and handling reptiles have been other sources of Salmonella infections.

Most persons infected with Salmonella develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12-72 hours after infection. The infection is usually diagnosed by culture. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days. Most recover without treatment. The young, persons with suppressed immune systems, and the very old may have an increased susceptibility to developing a more severe illness requiring antibiotic treatment. Six deaths have been associated with this outbreak.

Based on the available information from the CDC and FDA, the following recommendations are made to protect the consumer:

- Do not eat products that have been recalled and throw them away in a manner that prevents others from eating them. These products include Austin and Keebler brand peanut butter crackers and King Nut brand peanut butter produced since July 1, 2008. (FDA's web site, [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov), has recalled lot numbers).
- Postpone eating other peanut butter containing products (such as cookies, crackers, cereal, candy and ice cream) until more information becomes available about which brands may be affected.
- Use FDA's online database to check if foods you're concerned about are on the recall list.
- Call the consumer hotline phone number that may be on any product packaging you have to get information directly from the product manufacturer.
- Persons who think they may have become ill from eating peanut butter are advised to consult their health care providers.

Additional questions or concerns can be addressed with your local public health department or your primary care provider.

You can also visit the CDC site (<http://cdc.gov/salmonella/typhimurium/>) for more information.