

CDC: Romaine lettuce E. coli outbreak over

January 16 2020



It is safe again to buy and eat romaine lettuce grown on farms around Salinas, California, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Wednesday.

The CDC first issued a warning on Nov. 22, 2019, that consumers should avoid all [romaine lettuce](#) grown in Salinas, California, due to possible contamination with *Escherichia coli* bacteria. But as of Wednesday, the outbreak of *E. coli* illnesses linked to the lettuce "appears to be over," the CDC said in a statement.

Overall, "a total of 167 people infected with the outbreak strain of *E. coli* O157:H7 were reported from 27 states," the agency said. "Eighty-five people were hospitalized, including 15 people who developed hemolytic uremic syndrome. No deaths were reported." But the romaine that caused these illnesses is no longer thought to be available, so the agency "has lifted its advice that people avoid romaine lettuce from the Salinas Valley growing region in California."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration noted that the strain of *E. coli* identified in the recent outbreak is a familiar one. "Genetic analysis of the *E. coli* O157:H7 strains from patients in this current outbreak are similar to strains of *E. coli* O157:H7 associated with a previous outbreak from the fall of 2017 and the fall of 2018 that affected consumers in both Canada and the United States," the agency said last November.

More information: [More Information](#)

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