



## **MLS: Laboratory Update**

**MDA laboratory testing confirms *E. coli* O157:H7 in recalled hazelnuts  
March 11, 2011**

### **Purpose of this Message:**

To make you aware of a news release from March 9, 2011 regarding *E. coli* O157:H7 contamination on in-shell hazelnuts. For entire news release please go to: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/news/index.html>

### **Partial News Release**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) laboratory has confirmed *E. coli* O157:H7 contamination of in-shell hazelnuts (also known as filberts) collected from the home of an ill Minnesotan. The contaminated hazelnuts are part of a multi-state recall announced last Friday, March 4, by DeFranco and Sons, a California-based nut and produce distributor.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) confirmed that the *E. coli* O157:H7 bacteria found on the hazelnuts by MDA's lab matches the DNA fingerprint of the bacteria that sickened three people in Minnesota, three in Wisconsin, and one in Michigan. Based on purchase information associated with the positive hazelnut sample, MDA traced this product to a December 9, 2010, shipment from DeFranco and Sons.

DeFranco and Sons has recalled all hazelnut and mixed nut products it distributed from November 2, 2010, to December 22, 2010. Recalled product was shipped to stores in Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

### **Thank you to Laboratories**

Thank you to all laboratories that continue to quickly submit *E. coli* and other enteric pathogens for surveillance. This is crucial to discovering and stopping outbreaks such as these.

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This is an update from the Minnesota Department of Health – Public Health Laboratory (MDH-PHL) and the Minnesota Laboratory System (MLS). This message is being sent to MLS laboratory contacts serving Minnesota residents. You are not required to reply to this message.

**\*\*Please forward this to all appropriate personnel within your institution and Health System\*\***

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