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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Georgia Department of Public Health Monitors Salmonella Outbreak in Papayas

**ATLANTA** – The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is closely monitoring *Salmonella* Agona cases associated with the recent papaya recall. There have been eight cases reported in Georgia, including one hospitalization. No deaths have occurred as a result of this outbreak. On July 23, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) posted a recall of papayas from Texas firm Agromod Produce, Inc. after detecting *Salmonella* Agona in two papaya samples from that firm.

DPH is working with the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the product recall in Georgia. DPH's Epidemiology Section is monitoring illness data to identify cases in Georgia. County environmental health specialists are also informing restaurants and other food service establishments about the recall, and county environmental health specialists are monitoring for the product during routine inspections of food service establishments.

As of last week, there were 97 cases in 23 states, including Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

The FDA is warning consumers not to eat papayas from Agromod Produce, Inc. Agromod Produce, Inc. distributes the following four brands of papayas, whole and unprocessed: Yaya, Blondie, Mañanita and Tastylicious. Images of the stickers are available through FDA's website at:

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm265166.htm>.

Most persons infected with *Salmonella* develop diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps 12 to 72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts four to seven days, and most persons recover without treatment. However, some individuals may require hospitalization from severe diarrhea. The elderly, infants and those with impaired immune systems are more likely to become severely ill from *Salmonella* infection.

Consumers who think they may have become ill from eating possibly contaminated papaya should consult their healthcare providers.

## About the Georgia Department of Public Health

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is the lead agency responsible for the health of Georgia's communities and the entire population. In 2011, the General Assembly restored DPH to its own state agency after more than 30 years consolidated under other departments. At the state level, DPH is divided into numerous divisions, sections, programs and offices, and at the local level, DPH functions via 18 health districts and 155 county health departments. Through the changes, the mission has remained constant – to protect the lives of all Georgians. Today, DPH's main functions include: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Maternal and Child Health, Infectious Disease and Immunization, Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Emergency Medical Services, Pharmacy, Nursing, Volunteer Health Care, the Office of Health Equity, Vital Records and the State Public Health Laboratory. For more information on DPH, visit [www.health.state.ga.us](http://www.health.state.ga.us).

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