



## N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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### **NORTH CAROLINA HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS WARN CITIZENS**

#### **ABOUT COOKIE DOUGH RECALL**

#### ***Pre-Packaged, Refrigerated Nestle Products Possibly Contaminated with E. coli***

**RALEIGH** – North Carolina officials warn consumers to avoid eating pre-packaged, refrigerated Nestle Toll House cookie dough after the company voluntarily recalled the product due to possible contamination with *E. coli O157:H7*.

The warning is based on an ongoing outbreak investigation conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, state health departments and other federal partners. Since March 2009 there have been 70 reports of related or associated illness across 30 states.

Two cases of illness have been associated with this product reported in North Carolina.

“Retailers across the state need to remove these products from their shelves, but we recognize that consumers may also have some of these products in their homes,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “I strongly encourage consumers to check their refrigerators for these cookie dough products. If you have any of the recalled products, you should dispose of them.”

The multi-agency effort consists of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Health; N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services; and the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development. These state officials are working together with local health departments to contact grocery stores, child care centers, summer camps, nursing and long-term care homes, jails, warehouses and other regulated facilities where the product may be found.

The products involved in the voluntary recall include all varieties of Nestlé Toll House refrigerated Cookie Bar Dough, Cookie Dough Tub; Cookie Dough Tube; Limited Edition Cookie Dough items; Seasonal Cookie Dough and Ultimates Cookie Bar Dough. A complete list of recalled product varieties can be found at [www.verybestbaking.com](http://www.verybestbaking.com).

*E. coli O157:H7* is a bacterium that can cause serious illness. It causes a diarrheal illness often associated with bloody stools. Most healthy adults can recover completely within a week. Young children and the elderly are at highest risk for developing Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome, which can lead to serious kidney damage and even death.

“Cooking the dough is not recommended because consumers might get the bacteria on their hands and on other cooking surfaces,” said Terry Pierce, director of the Division of Environmental Health. “If you have recently eaten prepackaged, refrigerated Toll House cookie dough and have experienced any of these symptoms, contact your doctor or health care provider immediately. Any such illnesses should be reported to state or local health authorities.”

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Pierce added that people should not eat raw food products that are intended for cooking or baking before consumption. Consumers should use safe food-handling practices when preparing such products. These practices include:

- following package directions for cooking at proper temperatures;
- washing hands, surfaces and utensils after contact with these types of products;
- avoiding cross-contamination; and
- refrigerating products properly.

For more information on safe food handling practices, go to <http://www.fda.gov/Food/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/ucm109899.htm>. Consumers who have additional questions about these products should contact Nestle consumer services at 1-800-559-5025 and/or visit their Web site at [www.verybestbaking.com](http://www.verybestbaking.com).

For a complete listing of the recalled products go to: <http://www.nestleusa.com/PubNews/PressReleaseLibraryDetails.aspx?id=133CC131-A79F-4E84-9C43-C9F99FE5BC99>.

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