

# Okaloosa County News Release

6/13/2008

## Tomatoes Linked to New York in Florida Case of Salmonella

### Florida Case Not Contracted in Florida

There is one case of Salmonella Saint Paul in a Florida resident that matches the strain associated with the national outbreak. This individual did not consume raw tomatoes in Florida; the individual consumed raw tomatoes in New York and later became sick.

The Florida Department of Health Food and Waterborne Disease Investigation team, in Tallahassee, continues to work with the CDC, FDA, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and other states on this investigation.

### Tomatoes that are Safe to Eat

Tomatoes that consumers can continue to eat (as of June 13, 2008) because they have not been linked to the outbreak in any region:

- Raw cherry tomatoes
- Grape tomatoes
- Tomatoes with the vine still attached
- Tomatoes grown at home
- Certain types of tomatoes from areas not associated with the outbreak (see list is below)

Consumers who are unsure of where the tomatoes are from that they have in their home are encouraged to contact the store or place of purchase for that information. If consumers are unable to determine the source of the tomatoes, they should not be eaten.

Consumers should also be aware that raw tomatoes are often used in the preparation of fresh salsa, guacamole, and pico de gallo, are part of fillings for tortillas, and are used in other dishes.

### **Certain Types of Tomatoes from Florida Counties, Other States that Are Safe**

The FDA recommends consuming raw red plum, raw red Roma, or raw red round tomatoes only if grown and harvested from areas that have not been associated with the outbreak which are these Florida counties and states:

Florida Counties (shipments of tomatoes harvested in these counties are acceptable with a certificate issued by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services): Charlotte, Citrus, DeSoto, Gadsden, Hamilton, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Madison, Manatee, Pasco, Polk, Sarasota, Sumter, Suwannee.