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PRESS RELEASE
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State Health Officials Warn New Hampshire Residents of a Ground Beef Recall Due To Possible *Salmonella* Contamination

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is urging New Hampshire residents not to eat ground beef that has been recalled due to possible *Salmonella* contamination. The ground beef was sold at Hannaford stores here in New Hampshire, as well as in Maine, Massachusetts, New York and Vermont. The various packages are labeled with sell-by dates of December 17, 2011 or earlier.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting 14 cases of illness possibly linked to contaminated beef. Ten of the 14 cases reported buying ground beef at a Hannaford store between October 12 and November 30. To date, there have been 3 cases of illness in adults in New Hampshire all of whom have recovered.

“Eating food contaminated with *Salmonella* can cause salmonellosis, one of the most common bacterial foodborne illnesses,” said DHHS’ Public Health Director Dr. José Montero. “*Salmonella* infections can be potentially deadly, especially in young children, seniors and someone with a compromised immune system. There is concern that some of this potentially harmful beef could be frozen, so people should be sure to check their freezers and either throw it away, or return it to the store for a refund.”

DHHS’ Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) is working with the CDC, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the New Hampshire Grocers Association this investigation. DPHS’ Food Protection Section is working closely with Hannaford, who is advising customers not to eat the ground beef and to return it to the store for a refund – a receipt is not required. Consumers can contact Hannaford at 1-800-213-9040.

Symptoms of *Salmonella* infections include diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and fever within 12 – 72 hours. Other symptoms can include chills, headache, nausea and vomiting that can last up to 7 days. Anyone concerned about an illness should contact their healthcare provider.

For more information about this recall and *Salmonella* visit the USDA website at <http://www.usda.gov/>, www.fsis.usda.gov, or the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov> or call the DHHS Division of Public Health Services, Communicable Disease Control Section at 271-4496 or 1-800-852-3345 x4496.

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