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For Immediate Release:Contact: Deborah Busemeyer, DOH Communications Director  
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(505) 231-0475**New Mexico Environment Department Announces Tomato Embargo***New Mexico Environment and Health Departments Continue to Investigate Salmonella Saintpaul Outbreak and Offer Advice to Consumers, Retailers and Restaurants*

(Santa Fe, N.M.) The New Mexico Environment Department and the New Mexico Department of Health recommend that no one buy, eat, sell or serve food containing raw red plum, raw red Roma, or raw red round tomatoes grown and harvested in Mexico or Florida unless cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The FDA has added several counties of Florida and states of Mexico to its list of areas that are not linked to the national salmonella outbreak.

“The Environment Department is stepping up its activities with tomato distributors in the state to assure that no tomatoes are being sold from specific areas of concern in Mexico and Florida,” New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry said. “Any tomatoes identified as coming from those areas will be embargoed.”

The state departments continue to work together to investigate the source of contaminated tomatoes linked to the *Salmonella* Saintpaul national outbreak and to inform the public, retailers and restaurants that the number of U.S. cases has increased to 552 from 32 states and the District of Columbia. Numerous cases were sick weeks ago but just recently confirmed as part of the national outbreak.

New Mexico reports 78 cases from 17 counties to date. People have reported becoming sick between May 11 and June 11.

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New Mexico residents can report their illness to the Environment Department at (505) 476-8600 or any local Environment Department field office. The Department will investigate links between the illness and suspect food establishments and arrange for tomato testing.

FDA has recommended people not eat raw red plum, raw red Roma, or raw red round tomatoes grown and harvested in Mexico or Florida with the following exceptions:

Mexican States: Aguascalientes, Baja California Norte, Baja California Sur, Campeche, Colima, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Distrito Federal, Durango, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Hidalgo, México, Michoacán, Morelos, Nayarit, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Puebla, Querétaro, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Sonora, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Tlaxcala, Veracruz, Yucatán, Zacatecas

The following counties if they have a certificate issued by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: Jackson, Gadsden, Leon, Jefferson, Madison, Suwannee, Hamilton, Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Hardee, DeSoto, Sarasota, Highlands, Pasco, Sumter, Citrus, Hernando, Charlotte.

For more information about the Salmonella outbreak, look up:  
<http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html> .

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