



Pepperoni Recalled Due to Potential Health Hazard

December 16, 2021 - The Kane County Health Department is advising that Smithfield Packaged Meats Corp., doing business as Margherita Meats, Inc. of Omaha, Neb., is recalling approximately 10,990 pounds of ready-to-eat pepperoni products that may be adulterated with *Bacillus cereus* (*B. cereus*), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced today.

The pepperoni product was produced and packaged on June 17, 2021. The recalled product is an 8-oz. plastic shrink-wrapped packages containing unsliced pepperoni "Margherita PEPPERONI" with lot code P1931C and a "use by date" of 12-14-21 represented on the label. The products subject to recall bear establishment number "EST. 19" inside the USDA mark of inspection. These items were shipped to retail locations nationwide.

There have been no confirmed reports of adverse reactions due to consumption of these products. Anyone concerned about an injury or illness should contact a healthcare provider.

The problem was discovered when the Department of Defense notified FSIS that they found *B. cereus* during routine product testing.

B. cereus is a toxin-producing microorganism that causes diarrhea and vomiting in people. Those with compromised immune systems are at risk for more severe illness. Vigorous rehydration and other supportive care including antibiotics are the usual treatment.

FSIS is concerned that some product may be in consumers' pantries or refrigerators. Consumers who have purchased these products are urged not to consume them. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

For more information, and information on product details, visit <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls-alerts/smithfield-packaged-meats-corp.-dba-margherita-meats-inc.-recalls-pepperoni-products>

The Kane County Health Department has an abundance of information about food safety online at KaneHealth.com/Pages/Food-Safety.aspx.

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