



BCCDC advises British Columbians about a new outbreak of E. coli O121 associated with flour

May 19, 2017

Vancouver – The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) is alerting British Columbians after six people in BC were infected with the same strain of E. coli O121 between February and April, 2017.

A sample of flour from one of the ill people was tested by the BCCDC Public Health Laboratory. The flour was positive for the same strain of E. coli O121 as seen in all the illnesses.

While it is unknown at this time whether the other ill people consumed the same flour, the BCCDC recommends consumers:

- Dispose of Rogers all-purpose flour in a 10kg bag with the lot number MFD 17 Jan 19 C. This flour was available to Costco customers in BC beginning in January 2017.

The outbreak serves as a reminder that it is not safe to taste or eat raw dough, batter or foods containing raw or undercooked flour (e.g. raw frozen pastries or doughs) regardless of the type of flour used, and that surfaces that come into contact with raw flour should be thoroughly washed as flour can be contaminated with harmful bacteria.

Although this outbreak is occurring at the same time as a national outbreak involving a different strain of E. coli O121 that has been linked to various flours and flour products, it is unclear whether there is a link between the two outbreaks.

Anyone who becomes ill with vomiting and diarrhea after consuming raw dough, batter or flour products is advised to consult their physician, or call the nurse line at 811.

To learn more about E. coli, see: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/e-coli-infection>

The **BC Centre for Disease Control**, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, provides public health leadership through surveillance, detection, treatment, prevention and consultation services. The Centre provides diagnostic and treatment services for people with diseases of public health importance, and analytical and policy support to all levels of government and health authorities. The BCCDC also provides

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health promotion and prevention services to reduce the burden of chronic disease and preventable injury. For more, visit www.bccdc.ca or follow us on Twitter @CDCofBC.

The **Provincial Health Services Authority** (PHSA) plans, manages and evaluates selected specialty and province-wide health care services across BC, working with the five geographic health authorities to deliver province-wide solutions that improve the health of British Columbians. For more information, visit www.phsa.ca or follow us on Twitter @PHSAofBC.

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Media Contact:

PHSA media line
778.867.7472

Tags: E. coli O121

Categories:

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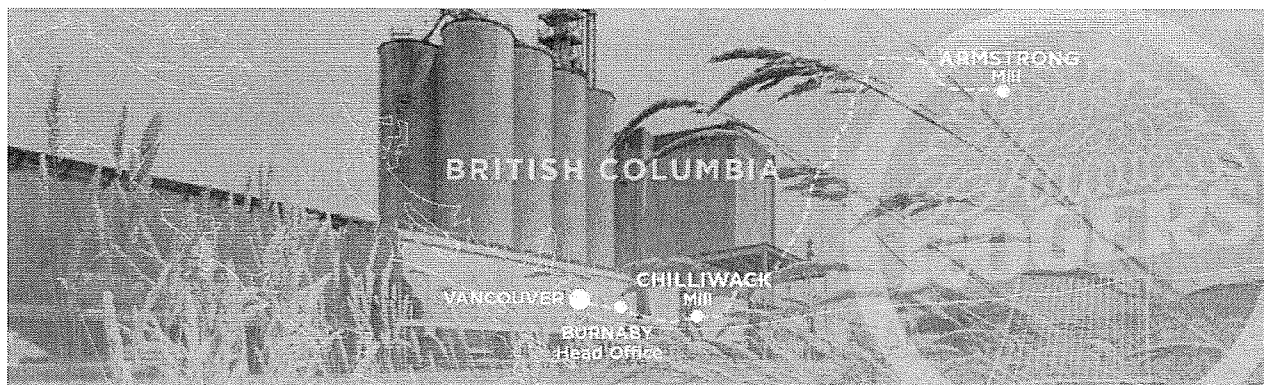
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Blog

RECENT E. COLI OUTBREAK

MAY 20, 2017



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Product in-question:

Costco 10KG All Purpose Flour

A letter to our valued customers about the news regarding our flour products and the recent E. Coli outbreak:

[Click here to make the letter bigger \(http://www.rogersfoods.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/1044_001.pdf\)](http://www.rogersfoods.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/1044_001.pdf)

Rogers Foods Ltd.

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PHONE: (250) 546-8744 • FAX: (250) 546-8228



To our Valued Customers,


On May 19 2017, the BC Center for Disease Control issued a news release informing the public that 6 people in BC have become infected with the same strain of E. coli O121 between February and April 2017. We are aware of only one of those individuals who became ill, allegedly from consuming raw flour linked to Rogers.

One sample from an open bag of flour – Rogers 10 kg All Purpose Flour dated "MFD 17 JAN 19 C" tested positive for E. coli O121. This lot code was sold exclusively at Costco Wholesale in British Columbia.

Rogers Foods is committed to producing safe, quality flours for our consumers. We are working diligently with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in their investigation on how this bag became contaminated with E. coli O121.

At this point the agency has not recommended a recall. However, we encourage all of our consumers with the flour lot code in question to abide by the BC Centre for Disease Control's recommendation. We appreciate the testing and scientific analysis being done by both the BC Center for Disease Control as well as the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Their investigation is ongoing.

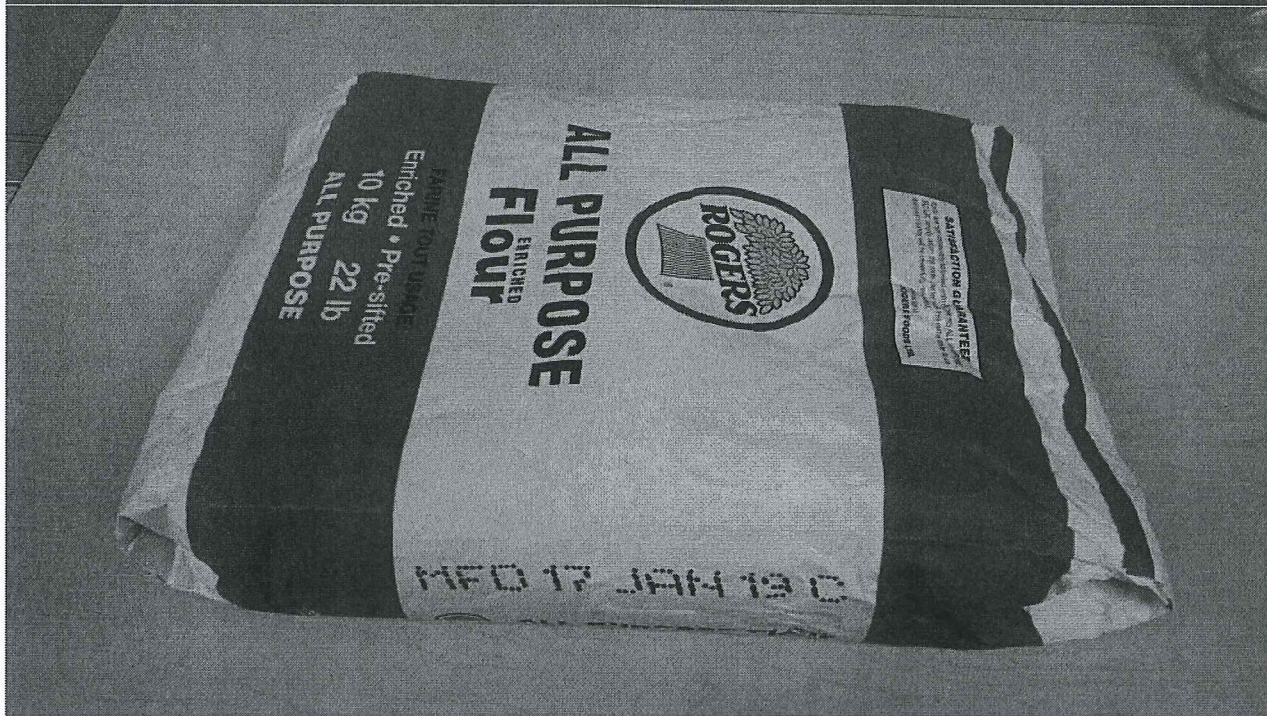
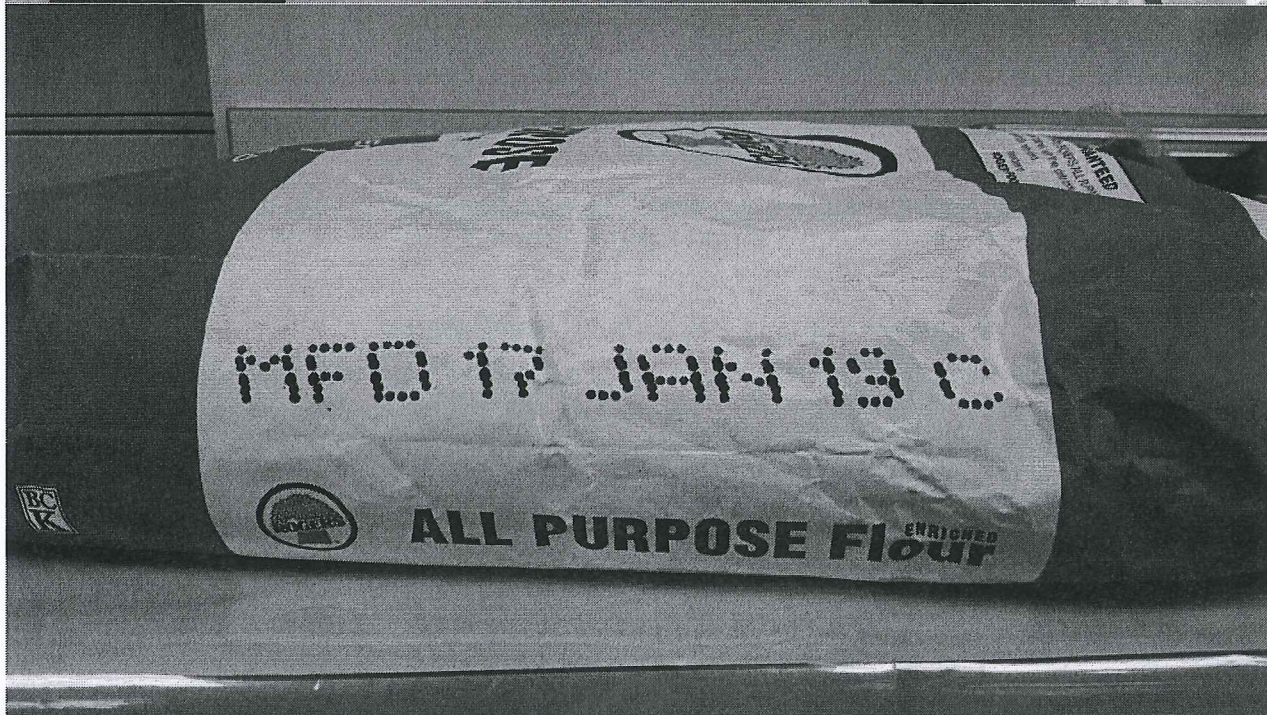
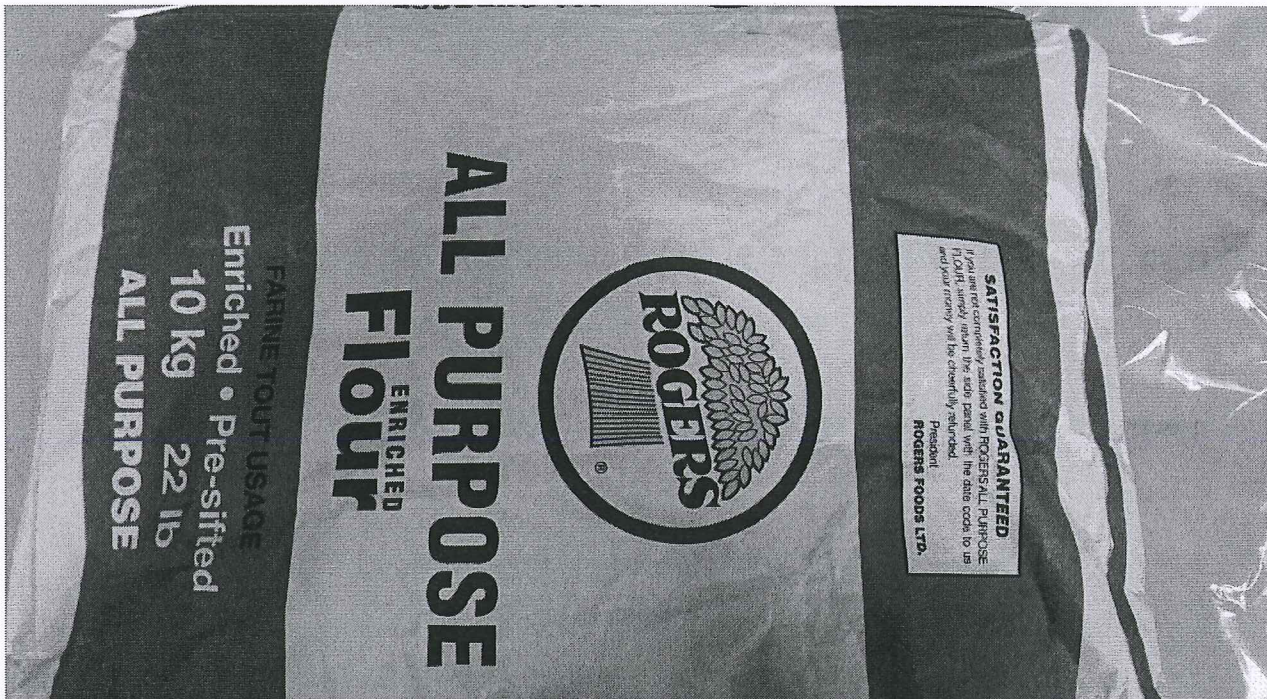
We must emphasize that flour is a raw agricultural product and must be thoroughly baked or cooked before eating.


Joe Girdner
President
Rogers Foods Ltd.


Anthony Lee
Director Quality
Rogers Foods Ltd.

http://www.rogersfoods.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/1044_001.pdf

Photos of product in-question:



For media-related inquiries – please contact Mark Hubbard at 1
804 385 3772

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