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DATE: April May 3, 2019

TO: Health Commissioners, Directors of Environmental Health and Interested Parties

RE: Recall Announcement (ODA/ODH) 2019-070

Public Health Alert Concerning a Possible Listeria Contamination of French Soft Ripened Cheese

May 3, 2019 - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is alerting the public to a possible Listeria monocytogenes contamination of l'Explorateur soft ripened cheese. This pasteurized, cow's milk cheese was made by Société Fromagère de la Brie in St. Simeon, France and distributed throughout the U.S. The FDA advises consumers and retailers to not eat, sell, or serve cheese labeled as l'Explorateur.

l'Explorateur cheese has been packaged in clear plastic containers and is sold in the form of small, circular wheels in 250g quantities. The sell by dates on the package include May 7, 2019 and May 14, 2019. Product lot codes are 7742-H 057 and 77432-H 064. Cheese labeled as such should be thrown away immediately.

Société Fromagère de la Brie firm are subject to an FDA Import Alert, allowing the agency to detain the food without physical examination until the firm demonstrates that its products no longer appear to be in violation of the FDA's requirements.

Listeriosis is a rare but serious illness usually caused by eating food contaminated with the bacteria called Listeria monocytogenes . Anyone who experiences fever and muscle aches, sometimes preceded by diarrhea or other gastrointestinal symptoms, or develops fever and chills after eating any of the products described above, should seek medical care.

Symptoms can appear from a few days up to a few weeks after consumption of the contaminated food. Listeriosis can be fatal, especially in certain high-risk groups. These groups include the elderly and people with weakened immune systems and certain chronic medical conditions (such as cancer). In pregnant women, listeriosis can cause miscarriage, stillbirth, premature labor, and serious illness or death in newborn babies.

People who think they might have symptoms of listeriosis should consult their health care provider. The FDA encourages consumers with questions about food safety to Submit An Inquiry or to visit www.fda.gov/fci for additional information.

