



# NEWS

Home / News

[http://pilotonline.com/news/no-harm-reported-from-meat-sent-to-local-schools/article\\_591dbf1c-fe11-535b-9cf0-cd4504e7739f.html](http://pilotonline.com/news/no-harm-reported-from-meat-sent-to-local-schools/article_591dbf1c-fe11-535b-9cf0-cd4504e7739f.html)

## No harm reported from meat sent to local schools

Hattie Brown Garrow  
Feb 21, 2008

Share



Thirty Virginia school divisions - including four in South Hampton Roads - received some of the more than 140 million pounds of beef involved in a recall announced this week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services reported Wednesday that Chesapeake, Norfolk, Suffolk and Virginia Beach received meat, via six processing companies, from the California meatpacker involved in the recall.

Of those, Norfolk's was the only school division so far that has reported using any of the recalled beef. No health problems have been reported locally.

The recall - the largest involving meat in the USDA's history - is of raw and frozen beef products distributed by Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Co.

The USDA determined that the products were "unfit for human food because the cattle did not receive complete and proper inspection," according to a news release dated Sunday. Undercover video from the Humane Society of the United States shows plant workers kicking and shocking cattle and shoving sick animals with forklifts.

There is only a "remote probability" that the beef poses a health hazard if consumed, according to the USDA release.

Since October 2006, about 37 million pounds of the recalled beef - which dated as far back as two years - went to school lunch and other nutrition-assistance programs, said Susan Acker, a USDA spokeswoman.

School divisions across Virginia were affected by the recall, though the state Agriculture Department did not know how much of the beef they received, said Marion Horsley, a department spokeswoman. The state recommends schools use frozen beef within six months of delivery, she said.



Fifty-four cases of taco filling served in Norfolk school lunches since September were made with the meat in question. On Feb. 5, a day after the USDA suspended the meatpacker from operating, school officials pulled an additional 78 cases of the recalled meat from schools and tagged 218 cases that never left the warehouse, said spokesman Vincent Rhodes.

The school division typically goes through about 60 cases of taco meat - each containing 30 pounds - a month. Frozen beef is used within two to three months, Rhodes said.

Parents should not be alarmed, Rhodes said. "Nothing has tested positive for anything harmful," he said. The school division is " obviously going to err on the side of caution."

Suffolk Public Schools has 150 cases of the recalled beef, none of which was served to students, said school division spokeswoman Bethanne Bradshaw. Frozen beef is typically used within a month of its arrival at the warehouse, she said.

In Chesapeake, 200 cases of hamburger patties, taco filling and shaved beef - all part of the recall - never left the division's warehouse, said spokesman Tom Cupitt. Each case had 20 to 30 pounds, depending on the specific product. It's kept frozen by the division no longer than two months.

Virginia Beach school officials are sorting through their inventory, spokeswoman Nancy Soscia said. They should know by today how much of the affected meat they have and whether any was served, she said.

Frozen beef is typically consumed within a week of receipt, Soscia said.

Hattie Brown Garrow, (757) 222-5562, [hattie.brown@pilotonline.com](mailto:hattie.brown@pilotonline.com)

Share



---

Hattie Brown Garrow

**SPONSORED: YOU MAY ALSO LIKE**

Sponsored Links by Taboola

**Sports Bras That Actually Cute (With Extra Support Too!)**

Fabletics

**Meryl Streep Finally Reveals Her Outrageous Home (Photos)**

Lonny

**Higher Returns than REITs: Investing in Real Estate is Changing Forever**

TechCrunch | Realtyshares

**Her Dress Dropped Jaws At The 2015 Met Gala**

StyleBistro