

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 19, 2010

Queseria Bendita
512 S. 3rd St.
Yakima, WA 98901
Sandra Aguilar 509-574-8587

QUESERIA BENDITA RECALLS QUESO FRESCO, PANELA, AND REQUESON
BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE HEALTH RISK

Queseria Bendita of Yakima, Wash., is recalling three types of cheese, Queso Fresco, Panela, and Requeson, because they have the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, an organism that can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems.

Although healthy individuals may suffer only short-term symptoms such as high fever, severe headache, stiffness, nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhea, *Listeria* infection can cause miscarriages and stillbirths among pregnant women.

The Queso Fresco, Panela, and Requeson cheeses are sold at Queseria Bendita's retail store and were distributed in Washington and Oregon, where they are sold in Hispanic markets.

The Queso Fresco is packaged in one- and three-pound vacuum packed wheels; the Panela is vacuum packed in one- and three-pound sizes; and the Requeson is packed in eight-ounce and one-pound clear plastic tubs.

Each cheese has a green label identifying the type of cheese, the Queseria Bendita brand name, and a date code up to and including "Apr 30 2010".

To date there is one confirmed illness in Washington related to the recalled product. Other illnesses in Washington and Oregon may also be related.

The public health investigation of the illnesses led to sampling and testing of the cheeses. The testing revealed the contamination of the product with *Listeria monocytogenes*.

The company has ceased production and distribution of the product while the Washington State Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the firm investigate the source of the problem.

Consumers who have purchased the product are urged to return it to the place of purchase for a full refund. Consumers with questions may contact the company at 1-509-574-8587 Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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Aviso de Seguridad Alimentaria

Todos los productos de la marca de **Quesería Bendita** (*Queso Fresco, Panela, y Requesón*) se han retirado del mercado debido a la posible contaminación con una bacteria muy peligrosa llamada listeria. Varias personas en los estados de Washington y Oregon se han enfermado por consumir estos productos durante los últimos meses. La listeriosis es una infección muy seria y posiblemente fatal para las mujeres embarazadas y sus niños nonatos, los ancianos y personas con un sistema inmunológico débil.

1. Descontinúe la venta y el consumo de estos productos inmediatamente.
2. Deséchelos o regréselos a la tienda donde usted los compró.
3. En general, las mujeres embarazadas deben evitar todos los quesos blandos.

Para más información, llame a su departamento de salud pública local.

Food Safety Notice

All **Queseria Bendita** brand *Queso Fresco, Panela, and Requeson* products have been recalled because of potentially dangerous contamination with *Listeria* bacteria. A number of people in Washington and Oregon have gotten very sick from eating this cheese in recent months. Listeriosis is a serious and possible fatal infection for pregnant women and their unborn children, the elderly, and people with weak immune systems.

1. Stop selling or using these cheese products immediately.
2. Throw them away or return them to the store where you bought them.
3. In general, pregnant women should avoid all soft cheeses.

For more information, contact your local health department.



Stores that reportedly sold recalled Queseria Bendita cheeses

ADAMS COUNTY

Las Palma Othello, WA
La Mexicana Othello, WA
Mi Carniceria Othello, WA
El Jazmin Othello, WA

BENTON-FRANKLIN

San Jose Mini Mart Prosser, WA
Toreros Benton City, WA 509-588-4583
Sandovals Basin City, WA
Super Mex Pasco, WA
La Palma Pasco, WA

CHELAN-DOUGLAS COUNTIES

Latino Market Place 730 Grant Rd E. Wenatchee, WA 98802 509-881-2600
Ruben's E. Wenatchee, WA
Arianas 818 S. Wenatchee Ave Wenatchee, WA 988801 509-664-7254
Esmeralda 1153 A. South Wenatchee Ave Wenatchee, WA 98801 509-665-9925
Biancas Wenatchee, WA
Ferry St. Market Wenatchee, WA
Bridgeport Plaza 1106 Columbia Ave Bridgeport, WA

CLARK COUNTY

Mercado Latino 5910 E. 4th Plain Ste A, Vancouver, WA

GRANT COUNTY

Los Cunados Mattawa, WA
Estudillos 402 E. government rd Mattawa, WA 509-932-4808
Fabelas Mattawa, WA
Santa Fe Tortilleria Royal City, WA
Sandovals Royal City, WA
Estudillos Royal City, WA
El Jazmin Moses Lake, WA
Mi Carniceria Moses Lake, WA
Sandovals George, WA
Central Market Quincy, WA

KING COUNTY

El Paso 17917 Bothell-Everett Hwy Ste 202 Bothell, WA 98012 425-486-0492
Los Reyes 17208 Bothell Way Suite D Bothell, WA 98011 425-415-0922
Video Garcia 12335 Lake City Way NE Seattle, WA 206-365-8070
La Bendicion Seattle, WA
Seattle Video Seattle, WA
Los 3 Reyes Seattle, WA
Mi Ranchito Seattle, WA
Mi Pueblito Seattle, WA

La Chiquita 1314 Union Ave NE land#9 Renton WA 98059 425-204-9530
Muy Macho Seattle, WA
Abarrotes Michoacan Seattle, WA
Guadalupe Market Burien, WA
Castillos Burien, WA
La Canasta Burien, WA
Corona's Musical Burien, WA
Abarrotes Quinceo 17730 Ambaum Blvd S. Ste B Burien, WA 98148 206-246-7521
Carniceria Aguilera 20856 International Blvd Seatac, WA 98198 206-878-1177
La Nueva Lupitas 2124 S.W. 336th St Federal Way, WA 253-838-6132
Santa Cruz 27217 Pacific Hwy So Federal Way, WA 253-529-1762
La Huerta 405 E. Smith St Kent, WA 98030 253-520-0198
Solteros Market 21080 108th Ave S.E. Kent, WA 98031 253-850-0127
La Selva 26220 116th Ave S.E. #107 Kent, WA 98031 253-856-1512
Lupitas Markets Kent, WA
Los Vecinos 15423 S.E 272nd St ste104 Kent, WA 98042 253-630-1644
Cardozas 335 Washington Ave S Kent, WA 98032 253-520-1254
Palacio Latino 2109 Auburn Way N. #B Auburn, WA 253-833-8065

LEWIS COUNTY

El Amigo Centralia, WA
La Perla Centralia, WA
El Amigo Mossyrock, WA

OKANOGAN COUNTY

Brewster Market Brewster, WA

PIERCE COUNTY

Palominos 804 E. 56th St #A-B Tacoma, WA 98404 253-476-4483
El Jalapeno Tacoma, WA
International Tacoma, WA

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Mixteca del Norte 205 E. Casino, Rd B9 Everett, WA 425-423-9338
Tienda Chapala 9629 Evergreen Way ste#203 Everett, WA 425-355-7334
Rancho Grande Everett, WA
Los Portales Everett, WA
La Herradura Lynnwood, WA
Los Portales 2 Edmonds, WA
Rancho Grande 2 Edmonds, WA
Carniceria Michoacan 3815 196th St S.W Ste 112 Lynnwood WA 98036 425-640-5244

WALLA WALLA COUNTY

La Barata Walla Walla, WA
Los Tapatios Walla Walla, WA

YAKIMA COUNTY

La Tapatia Toppenish, WA

Blue Sky Market 116 Chehalis Ave Toppenish, WA 509-865-7200

Mercado Guadalajara 10 Washington Ave ste D Toppenish, WA 509-865-5501

Su Mercadito#2 108 Main St Granger, WA 509-854-6309

La Favorita 600 Bailey Ave Granger, WA 509-854-1011

Lupitas Sunnyside, WA

Fiesta Foods 2010 Yakima Valley Hwy Sunnyside WA 509-836-2257

La Plazita 715 W. Wine Country Rd Grandview WA 509 882-6006

Su Mercadito 123 Division St Grandview, WA 509-882-3913

La Barata 110 Ash Street Grandview, WA 509-882-3181

Carniceria Coalcoman 229 Division St Grandview, WA 509-882-3630

Su Mercadito 320 B Street Mabton, WA 509-894-5088

Fiesta Foods 1008 E. Nob Hill Blvd Yakima, WA 509-654-7500

Wray's Southgate 401 W. Nob Hill Blvd Yakima, WA 509-248-0610

Ruben's 1518 S 1st Street Yakima, WA 509-454-5357

La Petunia 1402 S. Fair Ave Yakima, WA 509-248-8731

La Morenita 117 E. Walnut St Yakima, WA 509-575-1892

Panaderia la Espiga Yakima, WA

La Milpa Yakima, WA 509-469-8467

Mercado Latino 1&2 Yakima, WA

Yakimex Yakima, WA

Panaderia Aguililla Union Gap, WA

Panaderia el Solecito 303 W. Pine St Yakima, WA 509-469-2717

OREGON STORES

La Poblana Milton Freewater, OR

Jazmin Hermiston, OR

La Mexicana 135 E. Cornell Pl Hermiston, OR 541-667-8602

Panaderia el Pueblo Hermiston, OR

Novedades Santa Cruz Umatilla, OR

Tienda el Sol 203 N.W. 1st street Boardman, OR

El Conpadre Portland, OR

La Tienda de Guadalupe 101 S.E. TV. Hwy Hillsboro, OR 503-648-2401

Yesenisa's 1075 S.E. Baseline Ste K Hillsboro, OR 503-681-9299

Fruteria el Campasino 17871 S.W. Tualatin Valley Hwy Aloha, OR 97006

Guadalupe Gresham, OR