



Facsimile Cover Sheet
Wharangi Nama Waea

Date/Te Ra: **13 June 2014**

To/Kia: Physicians, General Practitioners, Practice Nurses, Pharmacists, After-hours Centers and Emergency Departments in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa region	From/Na: Dr Annette Nesdale
Name of Agency/Wahi Mahi:	Fax Number>Nama Waea:

Public Health Alert

Outbreaks of salmonellosis in North America linked to chia seed products - products imported into New Zealand

I would be grateful if you could distribute the following information from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Primary Industries to relevant staff in your organisation.

If you would also like to receive this by email for ease of distribution, storage and retrieval please advise RPH of your email on rph@huttvalleydhb.org.nz.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A. Nesdale'.

Dr Annette Nesdale

Medical Officer of Health

Regional Public Health

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Wellington and Wairarapa regions

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The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) are advising that batches of Navitas Naturals and Williams-Sonoma products containing chia seeds that have been implicated in salmonellosis outbreaks in North America have been imported for sale in New Zealand. So far there have been 17 cases associated with these products in the USA and 34 cases in Canada.

The serotypes involved in the outbreaks are: *Salmonella* Newport, *Salmonella* Hartford and *Salmonella* Oranienburg. Some cases have required hospitalisation; no deaths have been reported either from USA or Canada. To date no cases of salmonellosis in New Zealand have been linked to these products.

Investigations by MPI indicate that there appears to be a single direct importer and distributor for the products in New Zealand, and that distribution appears to be the upper North Island (Auckland and Northland) only. Distribution has been to health food retailers and sales to customers have occurred via the internet and retail outlets. The company has contacted customers and carried out a trade level recall of product. Around 107 units in total of sprouted seed powder and 47 units of the omega blend smoothie mix have been sold to consumers.

The company is initiating a consumer level recall. Information on that recall can be found here: <http://www.foodsmart.govt.nz/food-safety/recalls/latest-recalls/>.

As products containing the implicated chia seed can be also be imported directly via the internet MPI is putting out a wider general food safety alert.

Consumers are advised that they **should not eat** any of these products and **either dispose of them or return** them to the retailer.

Regional Public Health will ask all new cases of Salmonellosis if they have consumed the implicated chia seed products during their incubation period.

The implicated products are listed in the table below:

Name of product	Package size	Best by dates (in the US format of month/day/year)
Navitas Naturals Organic Sprouted Chia Powder	8oz / 227g	All dates up to and including 11/22/2015
Navitas Naturals Omega Blend Sprouted Smoothie Mix	8oz / 227g	All dates up to and including 11/5/2015
Williams-Sonoma Omega 3 Smoothie Mixer	8oz / 227g	All dates up to and including 10/31/2015

Consumers may also seek further information about these products from the retailer, MPI's website www.mpi.govt.nz or MPI's consumer helpline on 0800 693 721.