



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bashas' Supermarkets pull spinach from shelves

Recent advisory warns fresh spinach may be tainted with E. coli

(CHANDLER, Ariz)—Sept. 18, 2006—All locations in the Bashas' Family of Stores chain statewide have pulled all fresh and bagged spinach items from produce shelves, in reaction to a recent advisory that fresh spinach items may be tainted with E. coli.

The Food and Drug Administration has reported at least 157 cases of illness and at least 1 death from among 23 states. Arizona is reporting five cases. The tainted spinach may be from a farm in California, but full information is not yet known. Until Bashas' receives word that spinach is safe to eat, out of concern for customer safety, spinach will remain off store shelves until further notice.

E. coli is a form of bacteria typically found in the intestines of humans and animals. It can be transmitted through food items tainted with fecal matter and can potentially lead to serious illness or death.

Bashas' Family of Stores was founded in 1932 by brothers Ike and Eddie Basha, Sr. It is the largest family-owned supermarket in Arizona and was named the 2005 Progressive Grocer Retailer of the Year. Next year, Bashas' will celebrate its 75th anniversary as Arizona's hometown grocer. For more information, visit www.bashas.com.

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UPDATE: Oct. 2, 2006 – Bashas' Family of Stores will restock both fresh and bagged spinach on produce shelves by this weekend. The FDA has assured grocers nationwide that spinach is safe again to eat.