



Public Health



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Linn County, Iowa

## *Press Release*

**For Immediate Release**

July 23, 2010

[Media Notice: A news conference with representatives from Linn and Johnson County Health Departments and La Reyna Restaurant will be held at 4:00 pm in room 214 of the Johnson County Health and Human Services Building, 855 S. Dubuque Street, Iowa City]

### **Public Notice: Food Suspected in Illnesses**

*Products sold at farmer's markets and festivals may cause illness*

The Linn and Johnson County Public Health Departments are providing a public notice not to consume guacamole, salsa and uncooked tamales prepared by La Reyna Supermarket & Taqueria of Iowa City prior to July 19, 2010. The products of concern were sold at farmers' markets in Linn, Johnson and Dubuque counties and maybe contaminated with salmonella. Any guacamole, salsa and uncooked tamales should be thrown away and not eaten.

The salmonella investigation was initiated by Linn County Public Health officials and illnesses were traced to products produced by the restaurant in Johnson County. An ongoing investigation by Johnson and Linn County Public Health officials indicates the guacamole, salsa and uncooked tamales made by La Reyna and sold at eastern Iowa farmer's markets, festivals, and other distribution sites, may be the source of the illness.

The owners of La Reyna are fully cooperating in this public notice and have taken proactive measures to ensure the future safety of their products. "The health and safety of our customers is our primary concern at this point," said La Reyna owner Carlos Legaspi. "Before any action was requested, we pulled product from the shelves."

Johnson County Environmental Health inspectors have been working with the restaurant to ensure that food handling standards are being followed. The restaurant is currently in compliance with the food code and prior critical violations have been identified and corrected.

For more information on food safety, visit the Iowa Department of Public Health's web site at [www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/food\\_safety.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/food_safety.asp) or the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals' web site at <http://dia.iowa.gov/food>.

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For additional information, contact:

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## **LOCATIONS:**

### **Johnson County Hy-Vee's:**

Hy-Vee – Iowa City 1720 Waterfront Drive, Iowa City

Iowa City Farmers' Market

Iowa City Jazz Festival

### **New Pioneer Coop**

22 South Van Buren Street

Iowa City, IA 52240

1101 2nd Street

Coralville, IA 52241

### **Farmers' Markets Johnson County**

Sycamore Mall

Coralville's Farmers' Market

Iowa City's

### **Farmers' Market Linn County**

Noelridge Farmer's Market

Downtown Cedar Rapids

Marion's Farmers' Market

### **Dubuque County:**

Dubuque Farmer's Market