



TOM PAIGE CATERING CO.

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TOM PAIGE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESIDENT

Tom Paige Catering Company Issues Consumer Alert on Potential Product Contamination to Three Head Start Schools

CLEVELAND (Dec. 23, 2009) - Tom Paige Catering Company of Cleveland, Ohio today is issuing a public notice to alert consumers about possible *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of deli meat distributed to three Head Start programs in the Cleveland area on Dec. 18, 2009. To date, no illnesses have been reported.

“Out of an abundance of caution, we are alerting consumers at the Head Start schools that the turkey ham deli meat consumed may have come in contact with contaminated surfaces,” said owner Tom Paige. “My company has been feeding area customers for 30 years. We are proud of our food safety program, and I am confident that this is an isolated incident.”

Routine meat inspection services provided by the Ohio Department of Agriculture rendered a positive test result that indicated the presence of *Listeria monocytogenes* on food contact surfaces in the Tom Paige Catering facility. The turkey ham deli meat distributed by the company could have been contaminated through contact with these surfaces.

Below is a list of the Head Start schools affected by this consumer alert:

- St. Ignatius, 10205 Lorain Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44111
- St. Martin DePorres, 1264 E. 123rd St., Cleveland, Ohio 44108
- Our Lady of Good Counsel, 4419 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44109

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, listeriosis is a serious infection caused by eating food contaminated with the bacterium *Listeria monocytogenes*. The disease affects primarily persons of advanced age, pregnant women, newborns and adults with weakened immune systems. However, persons without these risk factors can also rarely be affected. A person with listeriosis has fever, muscle aches and sometimes gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea or diarrhea. If infection spreads to the nervous system, symptoms such as headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance or convulsions can occur.

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