

Gold Medal, Gold Medal Wondra, and Signature Kitchens Flour Recalled Due to Possible *E. coli* O121 Contamination

For Immediate Release
Contact

May 31, 2016

Consumers General Mills www.generalmills.com/flour 1-800-230-8103

Announcement

[View Product Photos](#)

MINNEAPOLIS – General Mills is collaborating with health officials to investigate an ongoing, multistate outbreak of *E. coli* O121 that may be potentially linked to Gold Medal flour, Wondra flour, and Signature Kitchens flour (sold in Safeway, Albertsons, Jewel, Shaws, Vons, United, Randalls, and Acme). Out of an abundance of caution, a voluntary recall is being made. To date, *E. coli* O121 has not been found in any General Mills flour products or in the flour manufacturing facility and the company has not been contacted directly by any consumer reporting confirmed illnesses related to these products.

State and federal authorities have been researching 38 occurrences of illnesses across 20 states related to a specific type of *E. coli* (*E. coli* O121), between December 21, 2015, and May 3, 2016. While attempting to track the cause of the illness, CDC found that approximately half of the individuals reported making something homemade with flour at some point prior to becoming ill. Some reported using a General Mills brand of flour.

Based on the information that has been shared with General Mills, some of the ill consumers may have also consumed raw dough or batter. Consumers are reminded to not consume any raw products made with flour. Flour is an ingredient that comes from milling wheat, something grown outdoors that carries with it risks of bacteria which are rendered harmless by baking, frying or boiling. Consumers are reminded to wash their hands, work surfaces, and utensils thoroughly after contact with raw dough products or flour, and to never eat raw dough or batter.

“As a leading provider of flour for 150 years, we felt it was important to not only recall the product and replace it for consumers if there was any doubt, but also to take this opportunity to remind our consumers how to safely handle flour,” said Liz Nordlie, President of General Mills Baking division.

Although most strains of *E. coli* are harmless, others can make you sick. *E. coli* O121 is a potentially deadly bacterium that can cause bloody diarrhea and dehydration. Seniors, the very young, and persons with compromised immune systems are the most susceptible to foodborne illness.

Any consumers concerned about an illness should contact a physician. Anyone diagnosed by a physician as having an illness related to *E. coli* O121 is also urged to contact state and local public health authorities.

The recall affects the following retail flour products that could be currently in stores or in consumers’ pantries. It includes 6 SKUs (stock keeping units or UPC codes) of Gold Medal Flour, 2 SKU’s of Signature Kitchens Flour and 1 SKU of Gold Medal Wondra flour.

If you have any of the products listed below, they should be thrown away. Consumers with additional questions or requesting a replacement should contact the company at 800-230-8103. Additional recall information can also be found at www.generalmills.com/flour.

The specific products in the recall include:

13.5 ounce Gold Medal Wondra Flour

Package UPC 000-16000-18980

Recalled Better if Used by Dates 25FEB2017 thru 30MAR2017

2 lb. Gold Medal All Purpose Flour

Package UPC 000-16000-10710

Recalled Better if Used by Dates 25MAY2017KC thru 03JUN2017KC

2lb Gold Medal Self-Rising Flour

Package UPC 000-16000-11710

Recalled Better if Used by Dates 23AUG2016KC

10lb Gold Medal All Purpose Flour

Package UPC 000-16000-10410

Recalled Better if Used by Dates 02JUN2017KC, 03JUN2017KC

5lb Gold Medal All Purpose Flour

Package UPC	000-16000-10610
Recalled Better if Used by Dates	25MAY2017KC, 27MAY2017KC thru 31MAY2017KC, 01JUN2017KC, 03JUN2017KC thru 05JUN2017KC, 11JUN2017KC thru 14JUN2017KC
5lb Gold Medal Unbleached Flour	
Package UPC	000-16000-19610
Recalled Better if Used by Dates	25MAY2017KC, 27MAY2017KC, 03JUN2017KC, 04JUN2017KC
10lb Gold Medal All Purpose Flour- Banded Pack	
Package UPC	000-16000-10410
Recalled Better if Used by Dates	03JUN2017KC, 04JUN2017KC, 05JUN2017KC
5lb Signature Kitchens All Purpose Flour Enriched Bleached	
Package UPC	000-21130-53001
Recalled Better if Used by Dates	BB MAY 28 2017
5lb Signature Kitchens Unbleached Flour All Purpose Enriched	
Package UPC	000-21130-53022

Recalled Better if Used by Dates BB MAY 27 2017

- * We strongly encourage you to notify your agencies within one business day from receipt of this notice.
- * ALL cased and uncased inventories, both at the member level and agency level, need to be checked. This product may have entered member and agency warehouses through salvage, local donations, TEFAP, local purchases, retail pickups, food drives, or other avenues.
- * For additional local details, please contact the Health Department(s) for the area(s) your food bank serves.

For full details on the recall, please

visit: http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm504235.htm?source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

If you have questions, please contact Wayne Melichar, Food Safety Manager, at wmelichar@feedingamerica.org or 312.629.7263.