



## **Victoria Food Safety Recall – 22 February 2019**

**Please see News Media Release dated Friday 22 February 2019 on our website.**

Meals on Wheels Victoria is aware that The Department of Health and Human Service is currently investigating the detection of *Listeria monocytogenes* in a range of food produced by the manufacturer, iCook Foods.

Facilities supplied by the company, including private hospitals, aged care centres and some Meals on Wheels services have been contacted to make alternative arrangements. No public hospitals are supplied by the company. Most of the health and aged facilities are in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

### **How do I know if my Meals on Wheels Food has been contaminated?**

Not all Meals on Wheels services use iCook Foods for meal production. If you have any concerns, please contact your service provider or your local Council.

### **What do I do with Meals on Wheels Food that has been produced by iCook Foods?**

Any food manufactured by iCook Foods on or before 22 February 2019, including refrigerated and frozen foods should be discarded immediately.

In line with the precautionary advice from the Department of Health and Human Services all meals delivered from the 13th January 2019 should be destroyed.

### **What if I have already eaten Food delivered by Meals on Wheels after these dates?**

People who are in vulnerable groups who have consumed foods produced by iCook Foods since 13 January 2019 need to watch for the symptoms and signs of listeria infection.

Meals on Wheels services are communicating with any vulnerable patients or clients who may have consumed these foods in the period of concern to alert them to the need to look out for signs and symptoms of listeriosis.

### **What is Listeriosis?**

Listeriosis is an illness usually caused by eating food contaminated by the bacterium *Listeria monocytogenes*. The bacteria are widely distributed in the environment and can grow in food at refrigeration temperatures.

For more information please see the Better Health Channel factsheet on Listeria infection on our website. Also available at the department's Better Health Channel <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/HealthyLiving/food-poisoning-listeria>

### **What are the symptoms of Listeriosis?**

Although uncommon, it can be particularly dangerous for pregnant women, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems.

The possible symptoms of Listeria infection include fever, headache, tiredness, aches and pains.

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**What do I do if I have any medical symptoms or concerns about my health?**

Please seek urgent medical advice.

**Will I be compensated for any Meals on Wheels that I need to throw out?**

Your Meals on Wheels provider will advise you on the process for replacement or reimbursement of food delivered Meals on Wheels that you have disposed of.

Please contact your Meals on Wheels service to discuss. In Victoria, this is likely to be your local Council.