***E. coli* O157:H7/Romaine Lettuce/Jun 2026 - CARA ID 1382**

On 6/10/2026, CORE Signals was notified by CDC about an *E. coli* O157:H7 cluster with an initial signal for (b)(4). On 6/23/2026, CDC identified leafy greens as the suspect vehicle and worked with state partners and the (b)(4) to collect menu level purchase histories. Among the four patients reporting exposure to (b)(4), all four reported consuming romaine lettuce in (b)(4) prior to illness onset. Additionally, two shopper card numbers were collected from patients in (b)(5) and (b)(5) A review of questionnaire data and purchase histories identified salad kits containing romaine lettuce were purchased and consumed prior to illness onset. A traceback investigation was conducted for four cases from two states reporting consumption of either (b)(4) purchased through (b)(4) or (b)(4) purchased at (b)(4). (b)(4) was identified as the common transformer supplying all traced points of service with salad kits containing romaine lettuce. During this response, CORE issued two assignments for traceback records and information collection to FDA Office of Inspections and Investigations/Office of Human Food Inspectorate East I (OII/OHFIE1) at (b)(4) and (b)(4) conducted between 6/25/2026-6/30/2026, and one assignment for traceback records and information collection to FDA Office of Inspections and Investigations/Office of Human Food Inspectorate West I (OII/OHFIW1) at (b)(4) conducted between 7/2/2026-7/9/2026. There were no FDA or state samples collected, and no product or firm actions were taken during this investigation. Based on epidemiological and traceback evidence, romaine lettuce processed by (b)(4) was identified as the confirmed vehicle in this outbreak and could explain all illnesses included in the traceback investigation; a source of contamination was not identified during the investigation. As of 9/4/2026, the cluster included 14 cases from (b)(5) states: (b)(5). There have been five hospitalizations and no deaths reported.