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NEWS RELEASE

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**Idahoans Warned of Possible *Salmonella* Infections Linked to
Certain Brands of Peanut Butter**

A national outbreak of *Salmonella* that has sickened almost 300 people nationwide may be linked to a brand of peanut butter that may have been distributed in Idaho. People are asked not to eat peanut butter sold under the brand names of Peter Pan and Great Value that were produced by ConAgra Foods and have the product code beginning with '2111' on the lids of the jars. There have been no deaths linked to the national outbreak, and no confirmed reports of related *Salmonella* illness in Idaho residents. However, state and local health officials are hearing anecdotal reports of possible related illnesses that are being evaluated.

“We are trying to confirm the distribution of the possible affected peanut butter in Idaho, and urge consumers to check the brand and lid lot numbers of the jars of peanut butter they have to ensure their safety,” says Dr. Leslie Tengelsen, Deputy State Epidemiologist. She said the national investigation is looking at possible infections that go back to August, 2006.

Dr. Tengelsen encourages consumers to return the product to the point of purchase or contact ConAgra at their 24-hour toll-free hotline at 866-344-6970. Ill people who consumed the suspected peanut butter should talk to their healthcare providers or district health departments.

(more)

Salmonella is a bacterial infection. Most people infected with *Salmonella* develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12 to 72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days, and most recover without treatment. However, in some people the diarrhea may be so severe that the patient needs to be hospitalized. The elderly, infants, and those with impaired immune systems are more likely to have a severe illness.

Salmonella infections sicken about 40,000 people in the United States each year, resulting in approximately 600 deaths.

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(Editors: For more information please contact your local district health department public information officer or Tom Shanahan, public information officer for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, at 208-334-0668.)