



**Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services**

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**INFORMATIONAL RELEASE NUMBER RFP22-03**

TO: DHSS Bureau of Environmental Health Services (BEHS); Local Public Health Agencies

THROUGH: Dusty Johnson, BEHS Acting Chief *DJ*

THROUGH: Mark Jenkerson, Food Operations Manager

FROM: Paige VanLoo, Retail Food Program Manager *PV*

SUBJECT: Cheese from potentially unapproved source

ISSUE DATE: June 1, 2022

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediate

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Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has been alerted to the possible distribution of “Lacteros La Carreta” cheese that is from a potentially unapproved source. The cheese is being purchased in Houston, Texas, transported to a home in Oklahoma, and repackaged for distribution to Kansas. It is presumed that the distribution is not limited to Kansas, but there is no further distribution details at this time. The cheeses were found during a foodborne illness investigation for E. coli STEC. There is no labeling and appear to be soft cheeses. DHSS is working closely with other State and Federal agencies to continue to gather information in regards to “Lacteros La Carreta” cheeses.

The FDA regulates all foods and food ingredients introduced into or offered for sale in interstate commerce, with the exception of meat, poultry, and certain processed egg products regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Product that is sold through interstate commerce without the approval from FDA is against FDA regulations.

According to Missouri Food Code, food products and ingredients must come from an approved source that is inspected by a local, State, and/or Federal agency. Food product that is not

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER: Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.

from an approved source is considered “adulterated” or “misbranded” and is not in compliance with the Missouri Food Code.



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