

John Bennett Creative Services *for Child Nutrition Professionals*

Attached are three versions of a letter to parents regarding the recent beef recall.

If you decide to use the letter, choose the version that fits your circumstances – and don't forget to carefully fill in the blanks with your specific information!

AND PLEASE – call or contact us if you need more extensive or specific help or preparation.

Use this letter if you never received any of the beef

Dear Parent:

You may have heard that a large amount of beef was recently recalled by USDA and that some of that beef was processed for school systems to use in the National School Lunch Program.. We never received any of the beef in question, so the recall does not affect us directly. Still, we understand that parents and students may well be concerned about the safety of school meals even if a school system, like ours, never received any of the meat.

Our primary commitment is always to the health and well-being of the children in our schools. We prepare and serve XX meals a day, XX a year, which makes us one of the biggest food service operations in the area -- but we never lose sight of the fact that every single one of those meals is eaten by one of our children. Food safety and cleanliness are our most important responsibilities.

I want to assure everyone in our community that we have always been and will always be vigilant, even *obsessive*, about the safety of the food we serve to kids. We follow the strictest food safety standards and in the very rare event that we need to address a problem, we do so quickly and openly. In this case, USDA recalled the beef because of serious violations of procedures by the processor in question. The recall is what USDA calls a “Class Two” recall, meaning that none of the product has been found to be even potentially harmful.

We get most of our food from commercial processors, many of whom are local. Food from the USDA commodity program makes up only about XX% of the food we prepare and serve in our program, and we count on USDA to monitor the processors of that food and to act when problems are found. I think this recall shows that USDA is ready to act decisively, and we commend them for taking this sweeping action.

Again, I want to stress that nothing – NOTHING – matters more to us than the health and well-being of our children. We’re here to provide the nutrition kids need to learn well, and whenever a question about food safety comes up, we will always act immediately in the best interest of our kids.

Finally, I want to encourage you to contact me directly at (phone number) or (email) with any questions or concerns about this matter or any other child nutrition-related issue.

Thank you,

Name

Title

School system name

Use this letter if you did receive some of the beef

Dear Parent:

You may have heard that a large amount of beef was recently recalled by USDA and that some of that beef was processed for school systems to use in the National School Lunch Program..

We did receive some of the beef in question and withdrew all of it from our supplies immediately upon being informed of the recall. USDA recalled the beef because of serious violations of procedures by the processor in question. The recall is what USDA calls a “Class Two” recall, meaning that none of the product has been found to be even potentially harmful.

Our primary commitment is always to the health and well-being of the children in our schools. We prepare and serve XX meals a day, XX a year, which makes us one of the biggest food service operations in the area -- but we never lose sight of the fact that every single one of those meals is eaten by one of our children. Food safety and cleanliness are our most important responsibilities.

I want to assure everyone in our community that we have always been and will always be vigilant, even *obsessive*, about the safety of the food we serve to kids. We follow the strictest food safety standards and in the very rare event that we need to address a problem, we do so quickly and openly, as we have done here. I want to stress that none of the recalled beef has been found to be harmful or tainted in any way.

We get most of our food from commercial processors, many of whom are local. Food from the USDA commodity program makes up only about XX% of the food we prepare and serve in our program, and we count on USDA to monitor the processors of that food and to act when problems are found. I think this recall shows that USDA is ready to act decisively, and we commend them for taking this sweeping action.

Again, I want to stress that nothing – NOTHING – matters more to us than the health and well-being of our children. We’re here to provide the nutrition kids need to learn well, and whenever a question about food safety comes up, we will always act immediately in the best interest of our kids.

Finally, I want to encourage you to contact me directly at (phone number) or (email) with any questions or concerns about this matter or any other child nutrition-related issue.

Thank you,

Name

Title

School system name

Use this letter if you're still not sure

Dear Parent:

You may have heard that a large amount of beef was recently recalled by USDA and that some of that beef was processed for school systems to use in the National School Lunch Program..

As of right now, we are not sure if we received any of the beef in question. We're working with the (name of your state agency) and USDA to determine that for sure. Of course, if we find that we did receive any of the product, we will withdraw all of it from our supplies immediately. In the meantime, we will not prepare any meals using any of the beef we have on hand that we received through USDA, whether or not it was part of the recall.

USDA recalled the beef because of serious violations of procedures by the processor in question. The recall is what USDA calls a "Class Two" recall, meaning that none of the product has been found to be even potentially harmful.

Our primary commitment is always to the health and well-being of the children in our schools. We prepare and serve XX meals a day, XX a year, which makes us one of the biggest food service operations in the area -- but we never lose sight of the fact that every single one of those meals is eaten by one of our children. Food safety and cleanliness are our most important responsibilities.

I want to assure everyone in our community that we have always been and will always be vigilant, even *obsessive*, about the safety of the food we serve to kids. We follow the strictest food safety standards and in the very rare event that we need to address a problem, we do so quickly and openly, as we have done here. I want to stress that none of the recalled beef has been found to be harmful or tainted in any way.

We get most of our food from commercial processors, many of whom are local. Food from the USDA commodity program makes up only about XX% of the food we prepare and serve in our program, and we count on USDA to monitor the processors of that food and to act when problems are found. I think this recall shows that USDA is ready to act decisively, and we commend them for taking this sweeping action.

Again, I want to stress that nothing – NOTHING – matters more to us than the health and well-being of our children. We're here to provide the nutrition kids need to learn well, and whenever a question about food safety comes up, we will always act immediately in the best interest of our kids.

Finally, I want to encourage you to contact me directly at (phone number) or (email) with any questions or concerns about this matter or any other child nutrition-related issue.

Thank you,

Name

Title

School system name