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Contact: Todd Post, 571.225.0957
todd.post@curastrategies.com

Kratom Industry Responds to FDA Advisories on Salmonella Contamination; Maintains Kratom Safety is Top Priority

Millions of Kratom consumers could be negatively affected by unusually harsh FDA salmonella advisory

Washington, D.C. — The recent [U.S. Food and Drug Administration's \(FDA\) recommendations](#) for consumers “to avoid Kratom-containing products” because of allegations they “have been linked to a multistate outbreak of salmonellosis” is both unjustified and harmful to the millions of Americans who benefit from Kratom every day, according to The Kratom Trade Association (KTA) a leading industry trade association.

KTA backs FDA actions to track and contain the tainted supply of Kratom to keep users safe, as it would with any other product; however, advising against the product as a whole is unjustified and sets a dangerous precedent.

“We support education and regulation, but not prohibition. 87 sick individuals are cause for concern and investigation, but it is no reason to ban the product altogether,” says Ira Hecht, KTA spokesman. “The Kratom Trade Association is committed to setting and adhering to high industry standards that protect the consumers who trust us with their well-being.”

According to Kratom experts, [more than 2 million people safely use Kratom in the United States](#) and have been doing so for decades, during which time there has never been an issue with salmonella.

Recent outbreaks of the bacteria in [sprouts](#) and [shredded coconut](#) did not lead to broad advisories against consuming these products, as the FDA did with Kratom in February. Even a salmonella [outbreak in 2017](#) linked to papayas that resulted in 251 infections and 2 deaths did not lead the FDA to advise avoiding the fruit altogether nationwide.

Manufacturers identified as a potential source of the outbreak have [voluntarily recalled products](#) to ensure consumers were not put at risk, exemplifying the safety and respect for reasonable oversight that KTA fully supports.

KTA believes that adopting high standards to protect consumers who rely on Kratom’s many health benefits will protect their right to purchase it from high-quality vendors, especially [in light of recent FDA actions](#) against a vendor not currently linked to the outbreak. Consumers should have alternatives to manage their own health and wellbeing and enhance their way of life—an important option in the face of America’s opioid addiction crisis.

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The **Kratom Trade Association** (KTA) is dedicated to the safe and responsible use of Kratom botanical products in the U.S. KTA is committed to regulatory compliance and will develop and promote use of best practices and quality standards for the industry. KTA will support Kratom research initiatives and conduct advocacy efforts to educate policy makers and the public about the benefits of Kratom, as well as dispelling common misconceptions. Visit www.kratomtrade.org for more information.