

FEATURE – USDA & FDA RELEASE FOOD SAFETY BROCHURES FOR THOSE AT-RISK

INTRO: The federal government is updating its food safety advice for those who are at increased risk for foodborne illness. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more. (1:59)

NEW BROCHURES FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OFFER ADVICE ON KEEPING AT-RISK GROUPS "FOOD SAFE." THE BROCHURES ARE A JOINT EFFORT BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S FOOD SAFETY & INSPECTION SERVICE.

Dr. Elisabeth Hagen, USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety: FSIS is committed to ensuring food is safe for everyone -- especially for at-risk groups -- before it even gets to the grocery store. And until we achieve that goal completely, it's also our responsibility to give consumers additional food safety information. So that's why we have partnered with FDA to get this important information to at-risk persons, their care-givers and others.

FEDERAL OFFICIALS SAY THAT ALONG WITH PRODUCERS, IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S JOB TO PREVENT FOOD FROM BEING CONTAMINATED. THAT INCLUDES ADVISING CONSUMERS WHAT THEY CAN DO TO KEEP THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES SAFE. FOR SOME IT CAN BE A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH SUCH AS FOR KIDNEY TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT JOAN MONDSCHHEIN.

Joan Mondschein, Kidney Transplant Recipient: These immunosuppressant drugs are what prevent rejection, they prevent your system from rejecting your organ, your newly transplanted organ. As a result of being on immunosuppressive agents, your susceptibility to infection increases dramatically. Food-borne hazards and food-borne risks are something that are critical for transplant patients to know.

MONDSCHHEIN IS IN ONE OF SEVERAL AT-RISK GROUPS FOR FOODBORNE ILLNESS THAT THE NEW NATIONAL INFORMATION CAMPAIGN IS TRYING TO REACH.

Dr. Regina Benjamin, U.S. Surgeon General: Getting sick from food-borne illness can be life threatening for those with compromised immune systems, such as the very young, the very old, transplant patients and others.

Mike Taylor, Deputy Commissioner for Foods, FDA: It's also important to consumers, particularly for those at high risk for food-borne illness to have information that they can use to do their part in preventing illness through proper selection of foods and proper preparation of foods.

YOU CAN FIND OUT HOW TO GET THE BROCHURES AND OTHER INFORMATION AT FOODSAFETY DOT GOV AND THE USDA AND FDA WEBSITES. IN WASHINGTON, D-C FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, I'M BOB ELLISON.

ANCHOR TAG: FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE GO TO F-S-I-S DOT OUTREACH AT U-S-D-A DOT GOV