

Ferre Hockensmith, Catalina

From: Satchell, Felicia B
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2001 8:14 AM
To: Ferre Hockensmith, Catalina; Anderson, Ellen M
Subject: FW: Product-Related Member Calls, June 18-29

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FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network
[mailto:faan@foodallergy.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2001 11:43 AM
To: Satchell, Felicia B
Subject: Product-Related Member Calls, June 18-29

I'm sorry to be late sending these out this week.
Debbie

Nabisco Mini Oreo Cookies this e-mail is from Lisa Pittman:
My daughter, age 2 1/2, is HIGHLY allergic to peanuts. I am fanatical about reading labels and watching what she eats. On Thursday I gave her Mini Oreo cookies from Nabisco. There was no indication on the label that they contained any nuts or peanuts or were made in a factory where contamination could occur. Within minutes, she had hives all over her back. I immediately gave her Benadryl and the reaction did not go any further. I called Nabisco on Friday morning and I was given an absolute guarantee that there was no chance that these mini cookies were contaminated with peanuts. The woman told me that unless there was a "contains peanuts" indication in the ingredient section, the cookies were peanut and nut free. I questioned her about the mini chips ahoy cookies at that time because they contain PECAN MEAL and the regular size chips ahoy do not. I was worried about the mini cookies all being made in the same place or on the same machine. She didn't know about the chips ahoy but she assured me that the Oreos were safe. Yesterday we let my daughter have another of the Mini Oreos. We watched her closely. After the second one, she started gagging on it and was making very strange sounds as if her throat hurt and she was trying to clear it! She kept trying to spit out what was left of the cookie but seemed to be having trouble doing so. I immediately gave her Benadryl and was ready to administer the EpiPen but she seemed to relax and no other reaction occurred. Now I am very concerned about what is going on with Nabisco and these mini cookies. This could be a coincidence that my daughter behaved this way twice, but I am still a nervous wreck. Do you have any information about Nabisco's production and how I can find out for sure where and how these Mini cookies are made?

Nabisco Chips Ahoy Cookies Nancy Miley (617-489-6068) called to tell us her 2-year-old son, allergic to peanuts, tree nuts, and sesame, had a reaction after eating 1 cookie. Within 10 minutes he had swelling of the eyes and face and hives on his face and trunk. She gave him Benadryl and called 911. He was given oxygen and transported to the emergency room, where he was monitored but not treated further. The label gave no indication of peanuts or nuts in the product. She reported the reaction to Nabisco, who sent a mailer for her to return the uneaten cookies. She still has some of the cookies from the package.

Nabisco Chips Ahoy Cookies Ursula Thompson (518-585-9261) also called to report a reaction to this product. Her 18-month-old son, allergic to peanuts and tree nuts, ate one and a half cookies. His mouth, lips, and face became swollen and covered with hives all over. She gave him Benadryl

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and took him to the emergency room. Nabisco sent a mailer for her to return the remaining cookies; she decided to keep a few of them.

Hillshire Farms Polska Kielbasa Debby Jurich (724-774-4485) called to report that her 6-year-old daughter, allergic to milk, egg, peanut, tree nut, fish, and shellfish, had a reaction. Immediately after eating she said her throat was starting to get funny, and she had clusters of hives around her mouth. She also complained that her back hurt when she breathed. Debby gave her 2 tsp. of Benadryl. Fifteen minutes later they were in the van and she completely passed out. They rushed her to the emergency room, where she was treated with more Benadryl and prednisone. None of the kielbasa is left, all they have is the packaging.

Bauer Butterkäse Cheese Cindy Bis (440-899-2662) called to tell us her 5-year-old son, allergic to egg, chicken, and turkey, had an anaphylactic reaction. This is a semi-soft cheese that is imported from Germany. The only ingredients listed are pasteurized part skim milk, cheese cultures, enzymes, and salt. Cindy is certain from her son's reaction it contains egg, but when she contacted the store she bought it from and they contacted the supplier, she was told there is absolutely no egg. She had cut the cheese into cubes, and her son put one 1 cm. cube into his mouth. He immediately said, "Oh no, Mom!" and spit it out. After about 15 minutes he started vomiting and had terrible trouble breathing. She gave him EpiPen Jr. and a nebulized breathing treatment. After 3-4 hours he was okay. She still has some of the cheese left and would like to have it tested.

NECCO Classic Candy House Candy Buttons this e-mail is from Gayle Nevers: We recently received a box of NECCO Classic Candy House Candy Buttons put out by The New England Confectionery Co., Cambridge, MA 02139 USA. Inside the box these candy buttons are on sheets of white paper and packaged in plastic bags. These packages can be used for resale. On the outside of the cardboard box that these plastic bags are in it is stated this item is "made in a facility that processes peanut/nuts", but on the individual plastic bags inside the box there is no such message. My daughter is allergic to peanuts/tree nuts and was eating the candy buttons that were given to her in the plastic bag because there was no message on the bag. My mother just so happened took the case that these bags came in home with her and saw the outside of the box. By that time my daughter had eaten a couple of sheets that these candy buttons came on, luckily she had no reaction at that time, but who could tell if she had kept eating them. This is a dangerous situation if companies are putting the message on the outside of the box but not on the individual packages that are being sold.

Debbie Scherrer, Member Communications

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