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Pizza

Dear School Food team,

School Food has temporarily suspended service of sliced pizza. This note is to explain why and address any questions you may have about what happened and what to expect moving forward.

In May 2016 we received reports that a very limited number of pizza slices showed some discoloration.

Out of an abundance of caution, we immediately put the distribution of all pizza citywide on hold until we knew what caused the discoloration. At the same time, our School Food quality control unit took the discolored pizza to an independent lab for testing. The lab determined that the discoloration did not pose any health or safety concerns and the pizzas were safe if ingested.

After stopping service of the sliced pizza in May we required the manufacturer of the pizza to identify what caused the discoloration and to fix the problem. We did not serve pizza for remainder of the year while this was being investigated.

Over the summer, the manufacturer assured us in writing that the production problem causing the discoloration incidents had been isolated to one day in February. They further assured us that any pizzas in our inventory that were from a later production date are clear of any issues and could be served.

However, on the first day we served pizza this year, the same discoloration was discovered in one more slice of pizza. Out of an abundance of caution and to ensure that we could resolve any other quality issues with the manufacturer, we suspended the pizza again until we can be assured that these issues will not recur.

After a series of discussions of the past several days, the manufacturer has agreed to pick up all pizza currently at schools and distributors and cover all associated costs. As part of the agreement, we are accepting new productions of pizza planned for the first week of October that should arrive in schools about three weeks later.

As we work to resolve, we are working with our distributors and suppliers to determine possible substitutions that students will enjoy.

Thank you for your continued patience and support and we work to resolve these concerns. If you have any further questions about the pizza slices do not hesitate to ask your direct supervisors.