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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 29, 2007**

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT ISSUES SALMONELLA ALERT  
FOR VEGGIE BOOTY SNACK FOOD  
No Westchester cases reported**

The Westchester County Health Department today issued a warning to consumers not to eat Veggie Booty snack food marketed by Robert's American Gourmet, due to possible contamination with *Salmonella* bacteria that cause gastrointestinal disease.

Veggie Booty is sold in four ounce, one ounce, or one-half ounce flexible plastic foil bags. It is often consumed by children, so parents are advised to watch their children for signs of illness if they have eaten the product recently, and seek immediate medical attention if any of the following symptoms are observed.

Salmonella typically causes diarrhea, often accompanied by abdominal cramps and fever, within one to four days after exposure to the bacteria. In infants, persons with weakened immune systems or previously existing poor health, *Salmonella* may cause life-threatening complications.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued the alert after 52 cases of illness in 17 states were reported resulting from consumption of this product, including 13 cases in New York. There have been no cases reported in Westchester; however, the product is available in Westchester stores.

Distribution of Veggie Booty has been halted and Robert's American Gourmet is cooperating with the FDA and will issue a recall for specific lot numbers of the product that may be at risk. In the meantime, the Westchester County Health Department recommends that residents discard or return to the point of purchase any of the product that they have at home.

Updates will be provided on the Health Department website at [www.westchestergov.com/health](http://www.westchestergov.com/health). For more information, please call the Health Department at (914) 813-5000.

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