

No Health Threat in LA County: The Facts about Food and Water Safety

1. How do we know that imported foods from Japan are safe?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration reports that imported food products currently available in the U.S. are safe to consume. The FDA has a strict screening process in place to inspect products that come into our ports and prevent unsafe products from entering our food supply. They also collect information about where Japanese food products are grown, harvested, and manufactured so that they can keep U.S. consumers safe.

2. What food products come to the U.S. from Japan?

Food products most commonly imported from Japan are seafood, snack foods, fresh produce and processed fruits and vegetables.

3. Are food crops and livestock grown in California at risk of radioactive contamination?

No. Agriculture is not currently at risk because there is no indication that harmful amounts of radioactive particles will reach LA County. In addition, produce is washed at various stages of production and processing. Individuals who grow their own food should always wash produce before eating.

4. Is it safe to eat meat, poultry, and dairy products from livestock produced in California?

Yes. Based on current information, there is no risk to the U.S. food supply. This includes, but is not limited to, all meat, poultry, and dairy products. The FDA is working closely with the Japanese government and other U.S. agencies to ensure that our food supply remains safe.

5. Is it safe to drink LA County water?

Yes. Water supplies in LA County are frequently monitored to ensure that water is safe to drink.

6. Will radiation from Japan affect LA County's beaches?

No. California is 5,000 miles away from Japan, there is not expected to be any significant increase of radioactive material in California's ocean water or seafood. Any radioactive particles in the ocean water near the damaged nuclear plants in Japan will dilute to extremely low levels before arriving in California's ocean water and are NOT a health concern to surfers, swimmers or pets at LA County's beaches.



Important Facts

1. There are no harmful radiation levels in LA County.
2. LA County's food, water, and air are safe.
3. You should NOT buy or take potassium iodide (KI) or other products to reduce risk from radiation exposure. It is not necessary and may be harmful.

For more information:

CA Dept. of Public Health:

(916) 341-3947

Available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Spanish and English

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

(800) CDC-INFO

(800) 232-4636, available 24/7

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA):

<http://www.fda.gov>