



No Nuts. Just Crumbs.

## North America's getting tough on Nuts ~ health concerns make it happen.

Tickle Your Tummy – Nut Free Cookie Company Inc., ensures that all of their products are nut free. Canadian School Boards mandate that children today need to be safe in their environments. Tickle Your Tummy leads the way by their strict manufacturing practices ensuring a completely nut free facility and process. “We started this business as a **nut free product** venture from day one. Like any other child, children with allergies need healthy and wholesome treats. I wanted to make that happen for kids,” states Jennifer Montoni of Tickle Your Tummy Cookies.

Jennifer is a leader in the nut free bakery industry and her original recipes are all about health, safety and goodness for our children. Below is some additional information regarding the concerns and progress both in Canada and the U.S. regarding health and safety of consumer food products.

**The Government of Canada** is committed to promoting the health and safety of Canadians by ensuring safe food, health and consumer products in the Canadian marketplace. This is a key federal role. That's why the 2007 Speech from the Throne committed to “introducing measures on food and product safety to ensure that families have confidence in the quality and safety of what they buy.”

On December 17, 2007, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced Canada's Food and Consumer Safety Action Plan. The Action Plan proposes a series of initiatives to modernize and strengthen Canada's safety system for food, health and consumer products and to better support the collective responsibilities that government, industry and consumers have for product safety. These initiatives focus on:

- **Preventing problems in the first place** – Government would provide better product information to consumers and guidance to industries on building safety throughout their supply chains. This would encourage a renewed focus on prevention.
- **Targeting the highest or unknown risks** – Government would be able to require companies that produce and/or supply consumer and health products to conduct safety tests and provide the results. That information would allow a closer watch on products where the risks are not yet fully understood or that pose the greatest potential hazard to the public.
- **Rapid Response** – New legislation would allow the Government to take faster action than ever before to protect the public when a problem occurs. This includes the power to pull unsafe consumer and health products from store shelves and enhanced capacity to oversee food product recalls. <sup>1</sup>

Schools have different policies regarding food allergies. Many schools have a nut-free policy throughout the whole school. It's important to be aware of the food allergy policy at your child's school or in their classroom specifically. The Government of Ontario advises to keep food allergy policies in mind when shopping for and packing your child's snacks and lunch. One of the best ways to avoiding sending potential food allergens into the classroom is to remember to always read the ingredient list on food labels. For more information about food allergies and the classroom, visit [Allergy Safe Communities](#). <sup>2</sup>

**WASHINGTON** - The American food safety system is a "hazard to public health" and overdue for an overhaul, President Barack Obama said Saturday as he filled the top job at the Food and Drug Administration.

Obama used his weekly radio and video address to announce the nomination of former New York City Health Commissioner Margaret Hamburg as agency commissioner and the selection of Baltimore's health commissioner, Joshua Sharfstein as her deputy. Consumer groups applauded the picks. The president also is creating a special advisory group to co-ordinate food safety laws and recommend how to update them. Many of these laws have not changed since they were written early in the last century, he said.

Obama said too many agencies are responsible for food safety, making it difficult to share information and stop problems from falling through the cracks.

Obama cited a string of breakdowns in assuring food safety in recent years, from contaminated spinach in 2006 to salmonella in peppers and possibly tomatoes last year. This year, a massive salmonella outbreak in peanut products has sickened more than 600 people, is suspected of causing nine deaths and led to one of the largest product recalls in U.S. history.

These cases are a "painful reminder of how tragic the consequences can be when food producers act irresponsibly and government is unable to do its job," Obama said, noting that contaminated food outbreaks have more than tripled to nearly 350 a year from 100 incidents annually in the early 1990s.

Obama said he takes food safety seriously, not just as a president but also as the parent of two young daughters.

"No parent should have to worry that their child is going to get sick from their lunch," he said. <sup>3</sup>

**LOS ANGELES** (Reuters) - Starbucks Corp on Monday said it has pulled all products containing peanut butter from its stores in the United States and Canada as a safety precaution.

The move came amid a U.S. salmonella outbreak linked to peanut butter and peanut paste from the Peanut Corp of America's Blakely, Georgia processing facility. Seven deaths have been tied to the contamination, which has made hundreds of sick, according to U.S. health officials.

The coffee chain said its products are not affected by a massive recall of peanut butter products and that Peanut Corporation of America is not a Starbucks supplier. <sup>4</sup>

1. Food and Health Safety Canadian Government
2. Provided by the Ministry of Health Promotion by the Government of Ontario.
3. [http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/capress/090314/health/health\\_obama\\_food\\_safety\\_2](http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/capress/090314/health/health_obama_food_safety_2) Copyright © 2009 Yahoo! Canada Co. All Rights Reserved.
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