

NJDOH Issues Notice for Illegally Imported Concha Negra Blood Clams

New Jersey was notified of an illness outbreak cluster of Hepatitis A virus cases in New York. The illnesses occurred between August 2025 and February 2026 and were associated with consumption of clam ceviche made from fresh frozen blood clams (also known as black clams, black conch, concha negra). These clams were illegally imported from Ecuador. No Hepatitis A cases associated with this product have been identified in New Jersey.

NJDOH has been conducting traceback efforts and investigations in conjunction with New York shellfish authorities and the U.S. FDA. The fresh frozen blood clams, labeled as concha negra, were shipped to a New York dealer from a New Jersey dealer/importer and distributed to numerous wholesale and retail establishments within New York and New Jersey. They may have been further distributed.

The New Jersey shellfish dealer identified in traceback efforts has contacted all customers and recalled any product that they distributed. This ongoing investigation seeks to identify any additional importers and wholesale distributors of this product.

NJDOH issued a notice to local/county health departments asking them to look for packaged fresh frozen concha negra from Ecuador during routine inspections. If found, local inspectors are asked to report establishment information and supplier info to NJDOH, then arrange for voluntary destruction or return to the supplier for destruction as this product is from an unapproved source.

The package includes the following text:

- La Serranita
- Concha Negra
- Shell Meat
- Fresh Frozen
- Net Weight 16 oz (454 g)

Consumers, restaurants and food retailers should not eat, sell, or serve La Serranita brand concha negra from Ecuador and should dispose of potentially contaminated products or contact their point of sale establishment to arrange for destruction.

Virginia Wheatley, NJDOH Shellfish Coordinator, is coordinating these efforts and may be contacted at virginia.wheatley@doh.nj.gov or 609-913-5160.