



2019 Report on Results of Lunar New Year Foods

Municipal Affairs Bureau
Department of Food Safety
2019



Background

- With the Lunar New Year just around the corner, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM), and the Consumer Council (CC) cooperated to collect samples for seasonal food surveillance on Lunar New Year festival foods.
- The Lunar New Year foods, which included sweetened fruits and vegetables, candies, festive cakes and New Year Gift Box, were collected from retail outlets in Macao.

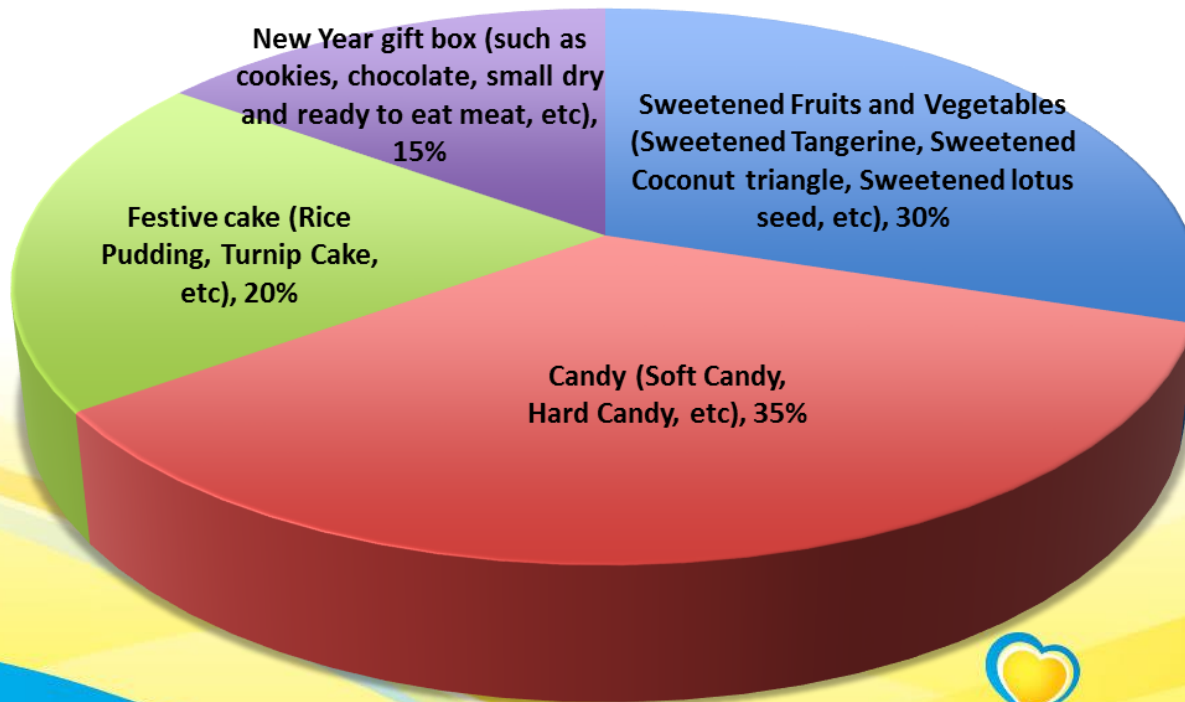


- A total of 100 samples of Lunar New Year Foods were collected for microbiological and chemical tests.
- The test results showed that three samples of sweetened fruits and vegetables contained preservatives sulphur dioxide over the reference limit.
- The authorities took immediate actions to urge the respective shops to stop the sale and dispose of the affected products in order to safeguard food safety.



Types of samples

Collected a total of 100 samples of LNY food from retail outlets in Macao. The types of foods included sweetened fruits and vegetables, candies, festive cakes and New Year Gift Box.



Types of test

- **Microbiological analysis :**

- Pathogen

(E. Listeria monocytogenes, Staphylococcus aureus, Salmonella)

- **Chemical Analysis :**

- Preservatives

(e.g. sulphur dioxide, benzoic acid, sorbic acid)

- Coloring matters



Test Results

- Among 100 food samples, 1 was found to be unsatisfactory.

Sample	Testing item	Result
Sweetened coconut diced	Sulphur dioxide	1.29 g/kg



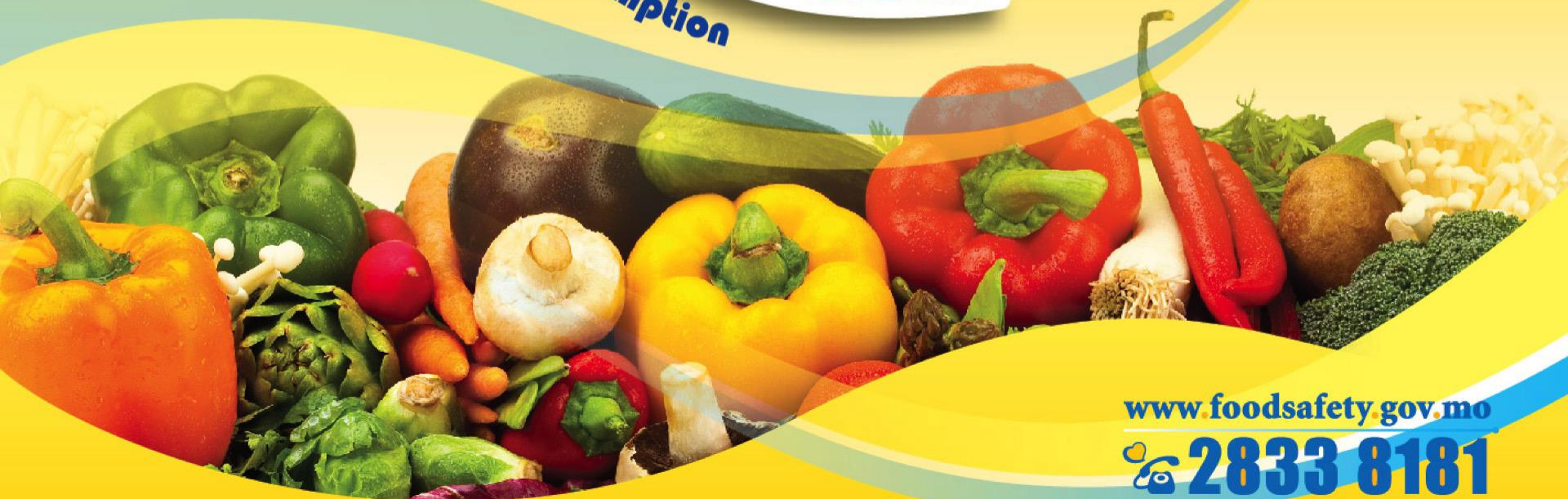
Follow-up and Preventive Actions

- **Follow-up actions have been taken on the unsatisfactory samples, which included:**
 - ✓ Request the respective shops to stop selling the affected products immediately.
 - ✓ Trace the source and distribution of the food item.
 - ✓ Inform the suppliers and the retailers to stop selling the affected batch of the products.
 - ✓ Seal the inventory of the relevant products.



Advice for consumers

- Buy Lunar New Year foods from reputable and hygiene stores.
- When buying pre-packaged products, make sure the packages are intact and mind the expiry dates.
- When buying non-packaged products such as sweetened lotus seed, nuts and melon seeds, pay attention to hygienic condition of food containers and personal hygiene of staff.
- Choose foods with natural color. Do not purchase foods which look too colorful or too bright as excessive amount of artificial colors or food additives may have been added.
- Before eating, check the food carefully. If abnormal smell or moulds are found, discard the food immediately.



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 **2833 8181**