

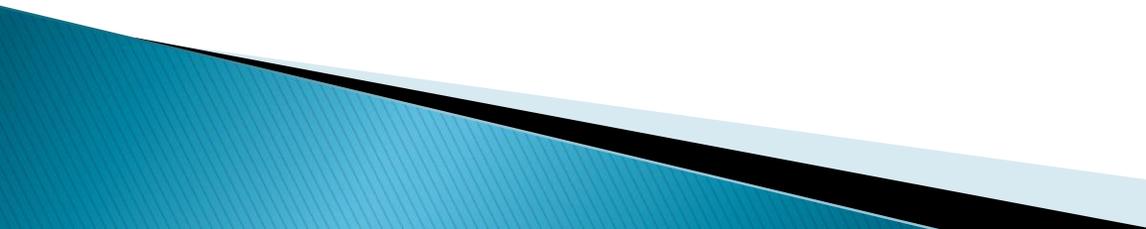
Salmonella/Kratom Response in Missouri

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Department of Health and Senior Services

MRRT

Missouri Rapid Response Team

Grown Overseas, But Distributed from Kansas City

- ▶ Registered as “Revibe.”
 - ▶ Different addresses in Kansas City area... is it an apartment or a business?
 - ▶ Online, also known as Buy Bulk Kratom USA.
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Difficult to Contact Anyone with the Company

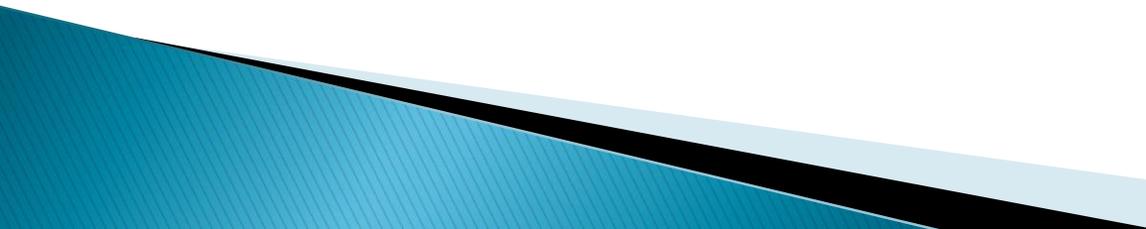
- ▶ The company by any other name or function was an important supplier linked to illnesses in other states.
 - ▶ They denied access to their facility.
 - ▶ They didn't want to talk to us directly... they'd rather do it through attorneys.
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Dinner or Tea Perhaps? Black Diamond Extract.

Labels didn't provide instructions for how to consume products. There was no label with information about what the product could be used for. Is it a drain cleaner or a desert topping?

Distributor Follows National Trend

- ▶ Avoid regulation. Labels don't say anything.
 - ▶ Maybe it's not really a food, exactly.
 - ▶ Our food code doesn't cover smoke shops.
 - ▶ No, it's not a dietary supplement. It actually has to say it's a supplement to be regulated.
 - ▶ It's not a medicine. Really we swear it's not a medicine. "No directions for use."
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Blog From Buy Kratom USA's Website -- "FDA Disclaimer"

- ▶ "This blog is strictly for informational purposes only. Kratom has not been evaluated by the FDA and we do not promote the use of Kratom for human or animal consumption. Consuming Kratom can lead to documented health risks and also has addictive potential. Our company does not endorse consumption and any information relating to such is for educational purposes only."
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Beautify Your Home With Kratom!

Maybe it's not just for looking at. But if you eat it, shove into capsules, or drink it in your tea... that's entirely up to you.

**People Were Getting Sick, What
Steps Could We Take To Protect
Them?**



Definition, It Could be Considered a Drug

- ▶ Revised Statutes of Missouri (RSMo.) 196.010 – ...“articles other than food, intended to affect the structure or any function of the body of man or other animals...”
- ▶ The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also related that they consider kratom a drug within their Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

Protecting People From Illness

- ▶ RSMo.196.030 – “Whenever a duly authorized agent of the Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) finds or has probable cause to believe that any food, drug, device or cosmetic is adulterated... he may affix to such article a tag or other appropriate marking (showing the product has been detained or embargoed)... warning all persons not to remove or dispose of such article by sale or otherwise until permission for removal is given by such agent or the court.”

Important Authority Regarding Different Facilities

- ▶ RSMo. 196.055 “The Department of Health and Senior Services or its duly authorized agent shall have free access at all reasonable hours to any factory, warehouse, or establishment in which foods, drugs, devices, or cosmetics are manufactured, processed, packed, or held for introduction into commerce, or to enter any vehicle being used to transport or hold such foods, drugs, devices, or cosmetics in commerce...”

**We had a Deep Concern
Because Kratom Hits the Same
Receptors in the Brain as an
Opioid.**



**We Found that the Company
Was Making Medical Claims on
Their Website.**



PICK 2 STRAINS



VALUE PACK KRATOM CAPSULES

200 CAPS SAMPLER PACK.

What's kratom for? “Three of the Best Places to Order Kratom Capsules Online Kratom plant is an incredibly powerful product which helps you to overcome health issues and to deal with the bunch of conditions.”—Buy Kratom USA.

Justified Action

- ▶ The product was adulterated.
 - ▶ The company made medical claims, even though they did more to hide the claims from their website.
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Embargoed Product at Revibe/Buy Kratom USA

Embargoed Product Prior to Destruction



Boxes were rarely labeled.



Inspectors opened the boxes to examine the contents.

Witnessed Transport and Destruction of Product



We Also Had Cases of Salmonella

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- ▶ One case in Northern Missouri said that they had some blue pills and some yellow pills, or maybe it was the package.
- ▶ “There was a wolf on the package and one was for ‘pain’ and the other for ‘energy.’”

Epi-Detective Work Identified These Products



Undercover Buy

- ▶ MDHSS Environmental Health made an undercover buy at the shop in Northern Missouri.
 - ▶ Products tested negative for Salmonella.
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Successful, But Challenging Response

- ▶ Despite the distributor's efforts to dodge regulation, we were confronted with a questionable product that made people ill.
 - ▶ Hard work and determination led to an embargo and destruction of product at a major distributor based in Missouri.
 - ▶ Determined investigation led to identification of a product, an undercover buy and product testing.
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