

Food Safety Web Site Launched

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Health. HHS Secretary Sebelius today outlined aggressive new steps to battle childhood obesity and provide the public with information on food safety strategies and recalls. "We are going to focus relentlessly on prevention," she said at the 32nd Annual National Food Policy Conference, sponsored by the Consumer Federation of America. As a first step, Sebelius announced the launching of a government Web site -- foodsafety.gov -- to serve as a clearinghouse for food and nutrition news, such as new regulations from the FDA. She said the site, operated jointly with the Agriculture Department, would feature e-mail and mobile phone alerts for users. It includes up-to-date information on food recalls. Sebelius also announced that a significant portion of the \$1 billion prevention program being prepared by her agency with economic stimulus funding would be devoted to supporting state and local government school initiatives to fight childhood obesity. Experts also sounded the alarm on the looming world food supply crisis. Patty Cantrell, the program director of the Michigan Land Use Institute, warned that the world's food production system had become more and more fragile due to over-centralization and too much reliance on fossil fuels, such as oil.