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| <b>DATE:</b>           | 11/07/2023   |
| <b>TO:</b>             | Health Alert Network   |
| <b>FROM:</b>           | Debra L. Bogen, MD, FAAP, Acting Secretary of Health                                     |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>        | <b>Update: Investigation of Elevated Lead Levels: Applesauce Pouches - November 2023</b> |
| <b>DISTRIBUTION:</b>   | Statewide  |
| <b>LOCATION:</b>       | Statewide  |
| <b>STREET ADDRESS:</b> | n/a  |
| <b>COUNTY:</b>         | n/a  |
| <b>MUNICIPALITY:</b>   | n/a  |
| <b>ZIP CODE:</b>       | n/a  |

This transmission is a “Health Update” that provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

**HOSPITALS:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, INFECTION CONTROL, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL **EMS COUNCILS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **FQHCs:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

### Summary

**New information has been bolded.**

- The US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) is advising that two additional brands are being recalled. The public is advised to not to eat, sell, or serve multiple brands of apple cinnamon fruit pouches because the product may contain elevated levels of lead. FDA’s investigation is ongoing.
- This is an update to [PAHAN-723](#). More information about this recall is available on the [FDA's website](#).
- This includes ALL lot codes and expiration dates of:
  - [WanaBana](#) apple cinnamon fruit puree pouches
  - [Schnucks](#) brand cinnamon-flavored applesauce pouches and variety pack
  - Weis brand cinnamon applesauce pouches (i.e., specific lots of UPC 041497216123)**
- Consumers should not eat, sell, or serve these recalled products. Consumers should immediately stop using them and return them to the place of purchase for a full refund. Consumers with questions can contact WanaBana at support@wanabanafruits.com, or the **Schnucks Customer Care team at 314-994-4400 or 1-800-264-4400**, or the **Weis Customer Service number at 866-999-9347**.
- These products have a long shelf life. Consumers should check their homes and discard these products.
- Most children have no obvious immediate symptoms of lead exposure. If there’s suspicion that a child may have been exposed to lead, parents should talk to their child’s healthcare provider about getting a blood test.
- Contact your healthcare provider if you think you may have symptoms of lead toxicity after eating recalled fruit pouches.
- For more information on childhood lead exposure in Pennsylvania, visit [Lead \(pa.gov\)](#), or contact DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH if you have any questions.

## Background

Lead exposure can have serious consequences for children's and pregnant persons' health. Lead is ubiquitous in the environment; unfortunately, we cannot see, taste, or smell lead. Lead is much more harmful to children and pregnant persons because it can affect children's developing nervous system and brains.

The FDA, along with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) are investigating reports of four children with elevated blood lead levels, indicating potential acute lead toxicity. The NCDHHS investigation identified WanaBana Apple Cinnamon Fruit Puree pouches as a potential shared source of exposure. As part of their investigation, NCDHHS analyzed multiple lots of WanaBana Apple Cinnamon Fruit Puree, detecting extremely high concentrations of lead.

The FDA has reviewed and supports NCDHHS's analytical findings and found that analytical results at this level could result in acute toxicity. The FDA has shared the results with the firm and on October 31, 2023, Wanabana LLC initiated a voluntary recall of all WanaBana Apple Cinnamon Fruit Puree Pouches.

**Since the first alert was issued on October 28, 2023, this investigation has been transferred to FDA's Coordinated Outbreak Response & Evaluation (CORE) Network for additional follow up, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local partners. Two additional brands of products are also subject to recall: certain Schnucks cinnamon-flavored applesauce pouches and variety pack and certain Weis cinnamon applesauce pouches.**

FDA has received additional reports of illnesses and is working to evaluate those complaints. FDA's investigation is ongoing to determine the source of lead contamination and whether additional products are linked to illnesses. FDA will update this advisory as information becomes available.



Lead is toxic to humans and can affect people of any age or health status. Protecting children from exposure to lead is important to lifelong good health. Lead exposure in children is often difficult to see. Most children have no obvious immediate symptoms. If there's suspicion that a child may have been exposed to lead, parents should talk to their child's health care provider about getting a blood

test. Although lead can only be diagnosed through clinical testing, signs and symptoms of lead toxicity vary based on exposure.

Short term exposure to lead could result in the following symptoms:

- Headache
- Abdominal pain/Colic
- Vomiting
- Anemia

Longer term exposure could result in additional symptoms:

- Irritability
- Lethargy
- Fatigue
- Muscle aches or muscle prickling/burning
- Occasional abdominal discomfort
- Constipation
- Difficulty concentrating/
- Headache
- Tremor
- Weight loss

Consumers who have symptoms should contact their health care provider to report their symptoms and receive care.

**Consumers with questions regarding these products can contact WanaBana at [support@wanabanafruits.com](mailto:support@wanabanafruits.com), or the Schnucks Customer Care team at 314-994-4400 or 1-800-264-4400, or the Weis Customer Service number at 866-999-9347.**

To report a complaint or adverse event (illness or serious allergic reaction), you can

- Call an [FDA Consumer Complaint Coordinator](#) if you wish to speak directly to a person about your problem.
- Complete [an electronic Voluntary MedWatch](#) form online.
- Complete [a paper Voluntary MedWatch](#) form that can be mailed to FDA.

Visit [www.fda.gov/fcic](http://www.fda.gov/fcic) for additional consumer and industry assistance.

### **Recommendations associated with this recall**

- Review recall information, including pictures of the specific item being recalled. This information is available on the [FDA website](#).
- Encourage parents to dispose the recalled products immediately.
- Providers should raise awareness about the recalled products among parents and recommend testing, as appropriate.
- Consider blood lead testing for children if they are exposed to these and other potential lead sources.
- Laboratories and health care providers are required to report all blood lead test results, regardless of the lead level, for persons under 16 years of age to DOH through Pennsylvania's electronic disease surveillance system, PA-NEDSS.

### Additional resources on childhood lead exposure

- [Lead Poisoning \(pa.gov\)](#)
  - [Elevated Blood Lead Level Resources \(pa.gov\)](#)
  - [Lead Poisoning FAQ \(pa.gov\)](#)
- [Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program | CDC](#)
- PA DOH lead information 1-800-440-LEAD

**For questions, please call your local health department or DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (877-724-3258).**

Individuals interested in receiving future PA-HANs can register at <https://ondemand.mir3.com/han-pa-gov/login/>.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

This information is current as of November 7, 2023, but may be modified in the future.