

**PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
2023– PAHAN – 723-10-31-ADV**

FDA Advises Parents and Caregivers Not to Buy or Feed WanaBana Apple Cinnamon Fruit Puree Pouches to Toddlers and Young Children Because of Elevated Lead Levels

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| DATE: | 10/31/2023 |
| TO: | Health Alert Network |
| FROM: | Debra L. Bogen, MD, FAAP, Acting Secretary of Health |
| SUBJECT: | FDA Advises Parents and Caregivers Not to Buy or Feed WanaBana Apple Cinnamon Fruit Puree Pouches to Toddlers and Young Children Because of Elevated Lead Levels |
| DISTRIBUTION: | Statewide |
| LOCATION: | Statewide |
| STREET ADDRESS: | n/a |
| COUNTY: | n/a |
| MUNICIPALITY: | n/a |
| ZIP CODE: | n/a |

This transmission is a “Health Advisory,” and provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

HOSPITALS: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, INFECTION CONTROL, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL
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

- The US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) is advising the public not to buy or feed WanaBana apple cinnamon fruit puree pouches to children because the product may contain elevated levels of lead. This includes ALL lot codes and expiration dates.
- WanaBana apple cinnamon fruit puree pouches are sold nationally and are available through multiple retailers, including Sam’s Club, Amazon, and Dollar Tree.
- WanaBana has agreed to voluntarily recall all WanaBana apple cinnamon fruit puree pouches regardless of expiration.
- Parents and caregivers of toddlers and young children who may have consumed WanaBana apple cinnamon fruit puree pouches should contact their child’s healthcare provider about getting a blood lead test.
- More information about this recall is available on the [FDA's website](#)
- 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 was recently made aware of a developing investigation by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDCA&CS) regarding 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 supported 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 whose representatives are cooperating with the FDA and have agreed to voluntarily recall all WanaBana apple cinnamon fruit puree pouches regardless of expiration.

The FDA is issuing this public health alert advising parents and caregivers not to purchase or feed WanaBana apple cinnamon fruit puree pouches to toddlers and young children because they may contain elevated levels of lead. The FDA is continuing to work with state officials and the company, collecting additional information and taking steps to remove all contaminated products from the market.



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 healthcare 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 healthcare provider to report their symptoms and receive care.

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 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 October 31, 2023, but may be modified in the future.