

## Investigation of Elevated Lead Levels: Cinnamon Applesauce Pouches (November 2023)

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### Outbreak Investigations & Safety Advisories Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

The following is an update from FDA of concern to our subscribers.

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November 13, 2023

As reported in a [safety alert](#) issued by FDA on October 28, 2023, 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 determined that levels of lead found in the analyzed pouches could result in acute lead toxicity.

As of November 13, 2023, there have been 22 reports of illness potentially linked to recalled product submitted to FDA. As part of this investigation, FDA and state partners are collecting and analyzing additional product samples of fruit puree and applesauce pouches. At this time, sample analyses have not shown elevated levels of lead in any non-recalled products.

On October 31, 2023, Wanabana LLC initiated a [voluntary recall](#) of all WanaBana Apple Cinnamon Fruit Puree Pouches. On November 9, 2023, Wanabana LLC [expanded their recall announcement](#) to include information on recalled Schnucks and Weis cinnamon applesauce pouches.

The recall impacts markets outside of the United States. Customer information provided by the firm shows that product was also distributed to Cuba and the United Arab Emirates.

Since the first alert was issued 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 is continuing to evaluate incoming adverse reports of illnesses. 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.

[Read the full update](#)

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