



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: February 14, 2022

From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory: Dangerous Lead Levels Found in Dried Fruit and Candy Products, California.

Key Messages

- From February 3, 2022 through February 6, 2022, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced several voluntary recalls of dried plum fruit and candy because lead levels exceed allowable amounts.
- On February 4, 2022, the California Attorney General issued a consumer alert, including warning that they may be marketed to children.
- Blood lead level screening in children with increased risk of lead exposure as indicated or during well child checks are required by [CA DHCS](#).

Situation

From February 3, 2022 through February 6, 2022, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced several voluntary recalls of dried plum fruit and candy. On February 4, 2022, the California Attorney General issued a consumer alert based on test results of these products.

Background

High levels of lead exposure can seriously harm children's health and development, and the brain and nervous system. Pregnant women, and their fetuses and others with chronic health conditions, can also be harmed. Neurological effects from high levels of lead exposure, during early childhood, include learning disabilities, behavior difficulties, and lowered IQ. Because lead can accumulate in the body, even low-level chronic exposure can be hazardous over time.

California law prohibits the sale of candies that have a lead level more than 100 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.1 micrograms per gram (µg), that far exceed this maximum allowable level. Testing of products, [listed by California Attorney General](#), revealed levels of lead that exceed the maximum allowable amount in these products. Many of these products appear to be marketed to children and confirmed to be sold by retailers, in San Diego County and elsewhere in California.

Retailers are being notified to immediately remove the following contaminated products from their shelves:

NAME	LOT NUMBER (IF ANY)	LEAD CONTENT	EXPOSURE / SERVING
El Chavito Saladitos Enchilados Salted Plums W/Chili		209 ppb	10 µg
El Leoncito Ponchin Saladitos con Chile/Dry Salted Plums with Chili		353 ppb	14.1 µg
El Super Leon Saladitos/Dry Salted Plums with Chili & Chamoy*	20210305	369 ppb	10.3 µg
Hola Lobito Fresco Ciruela Salada Sabor Limon/Lemon Flavored Salted Plum*	25021, 317 20, E 07521, E 05621, 287 20, E 10421	231 ppb	4 µg
La Fiesta Saladitos Con Chile/Salted Plums with Chili		322 ppb	12.8 µg
Alamo Candy Saladitos Con Limon/Dried Salted Plums with Lemon**		669 ppb	18.7 µg
Lupag Saladitos Con Chile/Chile Salted Plums**		1,930 ppb	13.5 µg
Spice and Chili Saladitos with Chili**		964 ppb	109.3 µg†

* Also sold online; **Only sold online; †Exposure per package – no serving size listed

Actions Requested

1. Raise awareness among parents about these products. Inform patients who have encountered a product listed above for sale, to file a complaint with the California Attorney General at www.oag.ca.gov/report. They should dispose of these items or return them to the place of purchase for a refund.
2. Consider screening for exposure to these and other lead sources and testing as indicated or during well-child check-ups.
 - [CA DHCS requires](#) all providers who conduct periodic health assessments on Medi-Cal children provide blood lead level testing at 12 months and 24 months of age, when requested by the child's parent or guardian, or when the provider is aware of an increased risk of lead exposure, among other circumstances.
3. For questions: [contact County of San Diego Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program](#) or call (619) 692-8487.

Resources

- [Attorney General Issues Consumer Alert for Dangerous Levels of Lead in Dried Plum Fruit and Candy Products](#)
- [La Fiesta Food Products Recalls Saladitos Salted Plums with Chili Because of Possible Health Risk | FDA](#)
- [El Chavito, Inc. Recalls Saladitos Dried Salted Plums and Saladitos Enchilados Salted Plums with Chili Because of Possible Health Risk | FDA](#)
- [El Super Leon Ponchin Snacks Inc Recalls Saladitos Dry Salted Plums Because of Possible Health Risk | FDA](#)
- [A&E Corrales LLC Recalls Saladitos Dried Salted Plums with Chili Because of Possible Health Risk | FDA](#)
- [Lead in Candy FAQs | CDPH](#)

Thank you for your participation.

CAHAN San Diego

County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency
Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch
Phone: (619) 692-8499; Fax: (858) 715-6458
Urgent Phone for pm/weekends/holidays: (858) 565-5255
E-mail: cahan@sdcounty.ca.gov
Secure Website: <http://cahan.ca.gov>
Public Website: <http://www.cahansandiego.com>