

Canadian Recall of Milk Chocolate Coins due to Melamine

To: Vermont Pediatricians, Family Practice, and Internal Medicine

From: Austin Sumner, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist - Environmental Health, Vermont
Department of Health

- Please Distribute Widely -

The Vermont Department of Health is issuing a public warning advising consumers who may have purchased Sherwood Brands Pirate's Gold Milk Chocolate Coins not to eat or distribute this candy. This product, widely distributed in Canada, was recalled earlier this month by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) due to positive test results for melamine. This candy was sold nationally in Canada through Costco stores and may have been sold in bulk packages or as individual pieces at various dollar and bulk stores. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has been contacted by the Vermont Department of Health and is looking into whether or not the product may have been distributed in the United States.

- Melamine is a synthetic chemical used in a variety of industrial applications. It is not naturally occurring and is not allowed to be added to food.
- Health effects from exposure to melamine vary depending on the amount and duration of exposure. Significant exposure to melamine may result in bladder and kidney stones, potentially leading to acute or chronic renal failure. Effects will vary depending on the degree of exposure (amount consumed over duration of time).
- The health risk associated with this candy product is considered to be low, according to the CFIA advisory. There have been no reported illnesses in the U.S. or Canada related to this or other products.
- Since reports in September of the contamination in China of a variety of food products, including infant formula, the FDA has been working with local, state, federal, and international agencies to ensure the safety of the American food supply, including broadening its domestic and import sampling and testing of milk-derived ingredients and finished food products containing milk, such as candies, desserts, and beverages that could contain these ingredients from Chinese sources. As of October 6, 2008, FDA testing of milk-based products imported into the United States from China had found melamine contamination in only a few products (e.g., White Rabbit Creamy Candies and Mr. Brown's coffee mixes). For current information on whether food products purchased in the U.S. might pose a concern about melamine, visit the [Food and Drug Administration website](#).

