



A Message from Kathy Wengel

Executive Vice President & Chief Global Supply Chain Officer

Retirees:

The safety of those who use our products is our top priority and every decision we make is grounded in Our Credo responsibilities. Today I want to provide you with an update on our U.S. single lot recall of Johnson's Baby Powder.

On Thursday, October 17th, Johnson & Johnson Consumer received a testing report from U.S. FDA indicating the presence of sub-trace levels of chrysotile asbestos contamination (no greater than 0.00002%) in samples from a single bottle purchased from an online retailer. Despite the low levels reported and in full cooperation and collaboration with the FDA, out of an abundance of caution we voluntarily recalled a single lot of Johnson's Baby Powder in the U.S., the lot from which the tested sample was taken.

We immediately initiated a rigorous and thorough investigation into the matter. As part of this we sent retained samples from the same lot to two third-party laboratories for testing. Last week the FDA also provided us with samples from the same bottle they used for testing. We then sent those samples for third-party testing as well.

Below is the press release we issued moments ago announcing results from that third-party testing. The results from 15 new tests of talc from the same bottle of Johnson's Baby Powder previously tested by the FDA found no asbestos. In addition, 48 new tests of samples from the recalled lot, conducted by two separate labs, also confirm the product does not contain asbestos.

It's important to note that even when careful safeguards are followed during testing, chrysotile contamination may be introduced during sample division, storage, preparation, and analysis. In fact, during our investigation, one of the third-party laboratories elected to deviate from their normal protocol by using an auxiliary room and determined that a portable air conditioner in use during sample preparation in that room was contaminated with asbestos. No asbestos was detected in any of these samples when prepared in the standard room.

While our investigation is still on-going, these 60+ new tests of the recalled lot are consistent with the thousands of tests we have done in the past, including tests by the FDA a month ago, concluding that our talc does not contain asbestos.

Information about talc and our testing can also be found at our external site www.FactsAboutTalc.com.

Sincerely,



Kathy Wengel
Executive Vice President
Chief Global Supply Chain Officer
Member of the Johnson & Johnson Executive Committee

Read the full press release below

15 New Tests from the Same Bottle of Johnson's Baby Powder Previously Tested by FDA Find No Asbestos

Over 60 New Tests of the Recalled Lot Conducted by Two Third-Party Laboratories Find No Asbestos

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ, (OCTOBER 29, 2019) – Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc. (the Company) today announced that 15 new tests from the same bottle of Johnson's Baby Powder previously tested by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) found no asbestos. An additional 48 new laboratory tests of samples from the single lot of Johnson's Baby Powder that the [Company voluntarily recalled](#) on October 18 (Lot #22318RB) also confirm that the product does not contain asbestos. These tests were conducted by two third-party laboratories as part of the Company's ongoing testing and investigation.

The Company stated, "Rigorous and third-party testing confirms there is no asbestos in Johnson's Baby Powder. We stand by the safety of our product."

Tests Demonstrate Positive Readouts are Possible Due to Lab Contamination

Following the voluntary recall, the Company contracted two third-party laboratories to expedite a large number of tests of the recalled lot of Johnson's Baby Powder utilizing Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM), Powder X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) and Polarized Light Microscopy (PLM) testing.

In addition to using their standard preparation rooms, one of the laboratories

deviated from their normal protocol by using an auxiliary room. In that auxiliary room, five samples were prepared, and three initially tested positive for asbestos. Upon this finding, the laboratory undertook an investigation and determined that a portable air conditioner in use during sample preparation in the auxiliary room was contaminated with asbestos. No asbestos was detected in any of the samples when prepared in the standard room.

This finding underscores the importance of investigating any positive test result. Even when careful safeguards are followed, asbestos contamination may be introduced during sample division, storage, preparation and analysis, according to the American Society for Testing and Materials, an International Standards Organization that identifies contamination as a concern in asbestos analysis ([ASTM 6620-19, Standard Practice for Asbestos Detection Limit Based on Counts, at 5.1.3\(ii\)](#)).

The Company has posted reports of its testing discussed above. These can be accessed on [FactsAboutTalc.com](#).

Decades of Product Testing Has Found No Asbestos in Johnson's Baby Powder

The Company has a rigorous testing standard in place to ensure its cosmetic talc is safe. Thousands of tests over the past 40 years, including FDA's own testing as recently as last month, repeatedly confirm that Johnson's Baby Powder does not contain asbestos. Our talc comes from ore sources confirmed to meet our stringent specifications that exceed industry standards. The Company and its suppliers routinely test to ensure our talc does not contain asbestos. Our talc has also been tested and confirmed to be asbestos-free by a range of independent laboratories, universities and global health authorities.

For 133 years, the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies have been committed to putting the needs and well-being of the people we serve first, and we will continue to do so.

As was previously announced, out of an abundance of caution Lot #22318RB of Johnson's Baby Powder was recalled on October 18. If you have questions about the recall, contact the Johnson & Johnson Consumer Care Center at [www.johnsonsbaby.com](#) or by calling +1 (866) 565-2229.

NOTE TO INVESTORS CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS:

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 regarding the results of subsequent testing related to the voluntary recall of one lot of Johnson's Baby Powder. The reader is cautioned not to rely on these forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements in this press release are based on current expectations of future events. If underlying assumptions prove inaccurate or known or unknown risks or uncertainties materialize, actual results could vary materially from the expectations and projections of JJCI and/or Johnson & Johnson. Risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to: product efficacy or safety concerns resulting in product recalls or regulatory action; significant adverse litigation or government action, including

related to product liability claims; uncertainty of commercial success for new and existing products; the ability of the company to successfully execute strategic plans; manufacturing difficulties or delays, internally or within the supply chain; changes to applicable laws and regulations; changes in behavior and spending patterns of purchasers of health care products and services; and increased scrutiny of the health care industry by government agencies. A further list and descriptions of these risks, uncertainties and other factors can be found in Johnson & Johnson's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 30, 2018, including in the sections captioned "Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" and "Item 1A. Risk Factors," in the company's most recently filed Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and in the company's subsequent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Copies of these filings are available online at www.sec.gov, www.jnj.com or on request from Johnson & Johnson. Any forward-looking statement made in this release speaks only as of the date of this release. Neither Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc. nor Johnson & Johnson undertakes to update any forward-looking statement as a result of new information or future events or developments. The Company expressly disclaims all liability in respect to actions taken or not taken based on any or all the contents of this press release.