

**Connecticut Department of Public Health**

410 Capitol Avenue, MS#51 LED

Hartford, CT 06134-0308

**Message Cover Sheet**

**DATE:** August 30, 2012

**TO:** Directors of Health  
Chief Sanitarians  
Regional Lead Treatment Centers  
Lead Contacts

**FROM:** Krista Veneziano, Epidemiologist

**PHONE:** (860) 509-7299

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**RE:** American Licorice Company Announces Recall of 16 oz. Red Vines® Black Licorice Twists

**cc:** L&HHP Staff, Suzanne Blancaflor, Francesca Provenzano and CT DCP

Number of pages including cover sheet: 3

Please see the attached product recall issued by FDA. American Licorice Company of Union City, CA is recalling 16 oz. Red Vines® Black Licorice Twists due to elevated levels of lead. Only the one pound bag (16 oz.) of Red Vines® Black Licorice Twists containing "Best Before Date" of 020413 are affected by this recall. American Licorice is notifying consumers and customers not to consume this candy.

Recent analysis of Red Vines® Black Licorice Twists by CDPH found that the candy contained lead levels as high as .33 parts per million (ppm). This concentration of lead could provide up to 13.2 micrograms of lead per serving and children under 6 years of age should not consume more than 6.0 micrograms of lead per day from all dietary sources. Therefore, the CDPH's position is that the sale of this lot of the 16 oz. Red Vines® Black Licorice Twists is in violation of California statutes.

To be directed to the recall announcement on the FDA website click on the link below:

[www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm316850.htm?source=govdelivery](http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm316850.htm?source=govdelivery)

Please see the recall notice for specific information for consumers and contact information for the company. You may also contact the CT Department of Public Health Lead Poisoning Prevention & Control Program at 860-509-7299.



## Safety

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### Recall -- Firm Press Release

FDA posts press releases and other notices of recalls and market withdrawals from the firms involved as a service to consumers, the media, and other interested parties. FDA does not endorse either the product or the company.

#### American Licorice Company Announces Recall of 16 oz. Red Vines® Black Licorice Twists

**Contact:**

Consumer:  
866-442-2783

Media:  
Michael Kelly  
831-359-1839



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** - August 21, 2012 - American Licorice Company of Union City, CA is recalling 16 oz. Red Vines® Black Licorice Twists due to elevated levels of lead. Only the one pound bag (16 oz.) of Red Vines® Black Licorice Twists containing "Best Before Date" of 020413 are affected by this recall. American Licorice is notifying consumers and customers not to consume this candy.

American Licorice learned from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), that some Red Vines® Black Licorice Twists contain levels of lead that could potentially cause health problems to consumers, particularly infants, small children, and pregnant women. American Licorice immediately segregated its entire inventory of 16 oz. Red Vines® Black Licorice Twists.

Red Vines® Black Licorice Twists is a black licorice candy made from molasses, wheat flour, corn syrup, caramel coloring, licorice extract, salt, and anise flavor. The 16 oz. bag is red and white in color with a window in the package to display the black licorice twists.

Recent analysis of Red Vines® Black Licorice Twists by CDPH found that the candy contained lead levels as high as .33 parts per million (ppm). This concentration of lead could provide up to 13.2 micrograms of lead per serving and children under 6 years of age should not consume more than 6.0 micrograms of lead per day from all dietary sources. Therefore, the CDPH's position is that the sale of this lot of the 16 oz. Red Vines® Black Licorice Twists is in violation of California statutes.

American Licorice wants to ensure its products are safe. Consequently, in addition to its ongoing cooperation with the CDPH, American Licorice is voluntarily recalling all 16 oz. Red Vines® Black Licorice Twists from all of

its customers with affected product. Consumers in possession of Red Vines® Black Licorice Twists with the "Best Before Date" of 020413 should not eat the candy and should return it to their place of purchase for a full refund. The "Best Before Date" is located in black ink on the rear of the package.

Pregnant women and parents of children who may have consumed any candy should consult with their physician or health care provider to determine whether further medical testing is required. For more information about lead poisoning, parents and caretakers should contact their local childhood lead poisoning prevention program or local public health department.

American Licorice will be sending recall notices to all of its affected customers. Please contact American Licorice Consumer Support at 866-442-2783 for further information.

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