



Alcohol Prep Pads Recalled Over Microbial Contamination Risk

Description

Alcohol prep pads sold across the United States have been recalled due to potential contamination with harmful bacteria, as announced by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Friday. This recall is particularly significant given the potential health risks for vulnerable individuals.

On Thursday, Cardinal Health initiated a voluntary recall of specific lots of its Webcol Large Alcohol Prep Pads, which contain 70% isopropyl alcohol. The contamination involves a bacterium known as *Paenibacillus phoenicis*, which can cause severe infections, especially in people with weakened immune systems.

Individuals at risk include cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy and those with poorly controlled diabetes. The contaminated pads could potentially lead to serious local and systemic infections, which may prove life-threatening or affect the central nervous system, according to the recall notice.

The affected pads were distributed throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Japan from September 2025 to February 2026. Consumers can identify the specific batches by referring to a detailed table provided in the FDA communication.

In response to this issue, Cardinal Health has advised customers through a notification sent on March 2. The company recommended that recipients review their inventory for the affected product codes, isolate any contaminated product, and inform all relevant departments and customers about the recall. Additionally, they must return the acknowledgment form to confirm receipt of the recall notice.

Consumers with inquiries regarding this recall may contact Cardinal Health via email or telephone during designated hours. Those who experience health issues related to the contaminated pads are urged to consult their physician for further guidance.

Vocabulary List:

1. **contamination** //kən,tæmə'neɪʃən// (noun): presence of dirt, germs, or harmful substances
2. **bacteria** //bæk'tɪriə// (noun): very small living things that can make you sick
3. **vulnerable** //ˈvʌlnərəbəl// (adjective): easy to be harmed or hurt
4. **voluntary** //ˈvɒləntəri// (adjective): done by choice, not forced by others
5. **isolate** //ˈaɪsə,leɪt// (verb): to separate something or someone from others
6. **systemic** //sɪ'stɛmɪk// (adjective): affecting the whole body or whole system

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What bacterium is involved in the contamination of the alcohol prep pads?
Option: Escherichia coli
Option: Staphylococcus aureus
Option: Paenibacillus phoenicis
Option: Clostridium difficile
2. What percentage of isopropyl alcohol do the recalled alcohol prep pads contain?
Option: 60%
Option: 70%
Option: 80%
Option: 90%
3. When was the announcement about the alcohol prep pad recall made by the FDA?
Option: Monday
Option: Thursday
Option: Friday
Option: Saturday
4. Which company initiated the recall of the alcohol prep pads?
Option: Johnson & Johnson
Option: Cardinal Health
Option: Pfizer
Option: Medtronic
5. Which groups of people are particularly at risk from the contamination?
Option: Healthy adults
Option: Cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy
Option: Children
Option: Elderly individuals without health issues
6. From when to when were the affected alcohol prep pads distributed?
Option: January 2025 to March 2026
Option: September 2025 to February 2026
Option: June 2025 to October 2026
Option: December 2025 to March 2026



True-False

7. The recall of the alcohol prep pads was initiated by the CDC.
8. Cardinal Health has a voluntary recall of specific lots of alcohol prep pads.
9. The contaminated alcohol prep pads pose no health risks for healthy individuals.
10. Affected pads were only distributed in the United States.
11. Customers were advised to check their inventory for affected product codes.
12. Consumers can contact Cardinal Health with inquiries about the recall.

Gap-Fill

13. The contaminated alcohol prep pads could potentially lead to serious local and systemic infections, which may prove life-threatening or affect the _____.
14. Individuals at risk include cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy and those with poorly controlled _____.
15. The contamination involves a bacterium known as _____ phoenicis.
16. Cardinal Health advised customers through a notification sent on _____.
17. Consumers can identify the specific batches by referring to a detailed table provided in the _____ communication.
18. The affected pads were distributed throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico, and _____ from September 2025 to February 2026.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Paenibacillus phoenicis 2. 70% 3. Friday 4. Cardinal Health 5. Cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy



6. September 2025 to February 2026

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. central nervous system 14. diabetes 15. Paenibacillus 16. March 2 17. FDA 18. Japan

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL6

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1. alcohol prep pads
2. ESL learning
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5. microbial contamination
6. product recall

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