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# Southern DAILY

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## J&J recalls 33,000 bottles of baby powder as FDA finds asbestos in sample



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaks at the House of Commons as parliament discusses Brexit, sitting on a Saturday for the first time since the 1982 Falklands War, in London, Britain, October 19, 2019, in this screen grab taken from video. Parliament TV via REUTERS

(Reuters) - Johnson & Johnson said on Friday it is recalling around 33,000 bottles of baby powder in the United States after U.S. health regulators found trace amounts of asbestos in samples taken from a bottle purchased online.

J&J shares fell more than 6% to close at \$127.70.

The move marks the first time the company has recalled its iconic baby powder for possible asbestos contamination, and the first time U.S. regulators have announced a finding of asbestos in the product. Asbestos is a known carcinogen that has been linked to deadly mesothelioma.

The recall is the latest blow to the more than 130-year-old U.S. healthcare conglomerate that is facing thousands of lawsuits over a variety of products, including baby powder, opioids, medical devices and the antipsychotic Risperdal. FDA alerts consumers of J&J baby powder recall, says it stands by tests

Johnson & Johnson says baby powder investigation could take 30 days or more

A jury last week ordered the company to pay \$8 billion to a plaintiff in a case claiming J&J downplayed the risks of Risperdal. That award is not expected to stand, the company and legal experts have said.

J&J faces more than 15,000 lawsuits from consumers claiming its talc products, including Johnson's Baby Powder, caused their cancer.

On a conference call with reporters on Friday, Dr. Susan Nicholson, head of Women's Health in the company's medical safety organization, called the asbestos finding "extremely unusual," adding that it was "inconsistent with our testing to date."

The voluntary recall announced on Friday is limited to one lot of Johnson's Baby Powder produced and shipped in the United States in 2018, the company said. J&J in a news release said that testing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as recently as a month ago found no asbestos in their talc.

The FDA said in a statement that the latest sampling took place during its testing for asbestos in talc-containing cosmetics that it began reporting this year. A second Johnson's Baby Powder sample from a different lot tested negative for asbestos, the agency said.

The FDA said it stands by the quality of its testing and results and recommended consumers stop using the product if it comes from the affected lot.

J&J said on the conference call that it received a report from the FDA on Oct. 17 alerting the company about the asbestos finding. It said it has started an investigation and is reviewing manufacturing records and collecting data on the distribution of the lot to determine where the product was shipped.

J&J added that it is working with the FDA to determine the integrity of the tested sample as well as the validity

of test results.

### THOROUGH INVESTIGATION NEEDED

The type of asbestos discovered by FDA testing has not been found in the mine where the company sources its talc, J&J's Nicholson said. She described it as an environmental contaminant most commonly found in building materials and industrial applications.

J&J said it was too early to confirm whether cross-contamination of the sample had caused a false positive, whether the sample was taken from a bottle with an intact seal or whether the it was prepared in a controlled environment. It added that it could not confirm whether the tested product was authentic or counterfeit.

"It is so critical that we perform a thorough investigation of the sample to determine the source of contamination," Nicholson said.

Since 2003, talc in Johnson's Baby Powder sold in the United States has come from China through supplier Imerys Talc America, a unit of Paris-based Imerys SA and a co-defendant in much of the talc litigation. Imerys and J&J said the Chinese talc is safe.

J&J has known for decades that asbestos lurked in its talc, Reuters reported last year. Internal company records, trial testimony and other evidence show that from at least 1971 to the early 2000s, the company's raw talc and finished powders sometimes tested positive for small amounts of asbestos. Company executives, mine managers, scientists, doctors and lawyers fretted over the problem and how to address it, while failing to disclose it to regulators or the public, Reuters found.

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U.S. health agency proposes reversing Obamacare transgender protections

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on Friday proposed a rule that would roll back protections for transgender patients under Obamacare...

the Office of Civil Rights, said on a call with reporters.

HHS said it has not enforced the protections since December 2016 after a federal court found they conflicted with a separate existing law.

Typically after HHS proposes a rule, there is a 60-day comment period before the measure is finalized. Earlier this month, the Office of Civil Rights released a final "conscience rule" allowing doctors, nurses and other health care workers to opt out of participating in or referring procedures with which they disagree...

The Trump administration, including HHS, has sought to restrict access to abortion.

LGBTQ advocacy groups and Democratic-controlled states have decried the Trump administration's efforts to erode protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer citizens.

"This move by the Trump administration is nothing less than an act of violence against those whose health care needs have historically been ignored, neglected, and dismissed," Louise Melling, deputy legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said in a statement

Two dozen U.S. states and municipalities sued the Trump administration earlier this week to stop the enforcement of the rule, which is almost certain to be challenged in court.

Severino, of the civil rights office, said the agency will still enforce civil rights protections on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, and sex

The landmark Affordable Care Act passed during the Obama administration, otherwise known as Obamacare, extended civil rights protections in healthcare to gender identity and the termination of a pregnancy. The agency's Office of Civil Rights said it posted a proposed rule to roll back those provisions of the law.

"When Congress prohibited sex discrimination, it did so according to the plain meaning of the term, and we are making our regulations conform," Roger Severino, head of

Michael Flynn says he is not ready to be sentenced, U.S. says he is ready

(Reuters) - Lawyers for former U.S. national security adviser Michael Flynn accused the federal government of stalling their efforts to defend him, and said the former top aide to Donald Trump is not ready to be sentenced for lying about his discussions with a Russian ambassador.

FILE PHOTO: Former U.S. national security adviser Michael Flynn passes by members of the media as he departs after his sentencing was delayed at U.S. District Court in Washington, U.S., December 18, 2018. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts Flynn's lawyers lodged their objections to the government's conduct in a joint status report filed on Friday with the Washington, D.C., federal court.

Lawyers for the government countered that Flynn is ready for sentencing, perhaps as

soon as Oct. 21. Both sides agreed that Flynn's cooperation with various government probes is finished.

Flynn pleaded guilty in December 2017 to lying to the FBI about his conversations the prior December with Sergey Kislyak, who was Russia's ambassador to the United States, about U.S. sanctions imposed on Moscow by President Barack Obama.

That plea came in connection with Special Counsel Robert Mueller's since-completed probe into Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election.

Flynn's sentencing was originally scheduled for December 2018, and U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan will need to decide whether a further delay is warranted.

Citing the status report, Sullivan scheduled a Sept. 10 conference to discuss the case.

In the report, Flynn's lawyer, Sidney Powell, said she has not had enough time to review the case, and accused the government of unfairly refusing to hand over information relevant to the defense.

She said this includes transcripts and recordings of phone calls supposedly underlying the charges against Flynn, and which the government has "steadfastly refused to produce." Lawyers for the U.S. Department of Justice countered that the government has "exceeded" its disclosure obligations, and was unaware of any classified information that Flynn needed to review.

The Justice Department proposed that Flynn be sentenced between Oct. 21 and 23 or between Nov. 1 and 15. Flynn's lawyers asked for 90 days before issuing of another status report.

Flynn's discussions with Kislyak occurred in the run-up to Trump's January 2017 inauguration, after Flynn had worked on Trump's election campaign.

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# Editor's Choice



Soccer Football - Euro 2020 Qualifier - Group A - England v Bulgaria - Wembley Stadium, London, Britain - September 7, 2019 England's Harry Kane celebrates scoring their second goal REUTERS/Toby Melville TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Ukrainian film director Oleg Sentsov, who was jailed on terrorism charges in Russia, gets off a plane upon arrival in Kiev after Russia-Ukraine prisoner swap, at Borispol International Airport



A U.S. flag on an embassy car is seen outside a hotel in Shanghai, China, July 31, 2019. REUTERS/Aly Song



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson visits Darnford Farm in Darnford, Banchory near Aberdeen



Courtney Wild looks on outside of the Southern District of New York court after a bail hearing in U.S. financier Jeffrey Epstein's sex trafficking case, in New York



Lawyer Sigrid McCawley leaves the Southern District of New York federal courthouse after bail hearing in Jeffrey Epstein's sex trafficking case in New York City



Police officers stand next to a medical examiner car outside New York Presbyterian-Lower Manhattan Hospital, where Jeffrey Epstein's body was transported in Manhattan borough of New York City



XVIII Pan American Games - Lima 2019 - Archery - Women's Compound Individual Gold Medal - Rugby Field, Lima, Peru - August 10, 2019. Mexico's Andrea Becerra in action. REUTERS/Guadalupe Pardo

**Carnival To Add Fourth Cruise Ship In Galveston**



Carnival Cruise Line will add its soon-to-be-revamped Carnival Radiance — formerly known as Carnival Victory — to its Galveston-based fleet in 2021. (Photo/ Carnival Cruise Line)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Florida-based Carnival Cruise Line, the largest operator of cruises from the Port of Galveston, will become the first cruise line to homeport four ships in Galveston. Carnival Radiance will join the Galveston-based fleet beginning in 2021, according to a press release. The cruise line, part of Miami-based Carnival Corp. (NYSE: CCL), also will swap out another ship and make some scheduling changes.

In all, Carnival will grow its Galveston sailings by about 33 percent to 235 annually and increase its number of guests departing from Galveston by about 38 percent to around 900,000 annually.

**Newest Ship**

Carnival Radiance, formerly known as Carnival Victory, will make Galveston its homeport on May 14, 2021. Before making the move, the ship will undergo an extensive \$200 million renovation in 2020 — one of the most expensive cruise ship makeovers ever, according to USA Today.

Changes include transforming the ship's water park, youth facilities, retail shops, Cloud 9 Spa, Liquid Lounge and more.

Carnival Radiance also will add new food and beverage options, including Guy's Pig & Anchor Bar-B-Que Smokehouse from Food Network star Guy Fieri, Cucina del Capitano family-style Italian restaurant, Bonsai Sushi, Caribbean-inspired RedFrog Pub, and Big Chicken, a restaurant created by Shaquille O'Neal, Carnival's "chief fun officer," per the release. New suites also will be added, according to reports, increasing the ship's current capacity of 2,758.



Carnival Radiance's Galveston schedule will include:

- Five-day cruises departing Sundays and featuring Mexico's Cozumel and Progre-

- so or Costa Maya ports.
- Nine-day cruises featuring three itineraries: (1) Cozumel; Limon, Costa Rica; and a partial Panama Canal transit or a visit to Colon, Panama; (2) Key West, Grand Turk, the private Bahamian island of Half Moon Cay and Nassau; and (3) Grand Cayman, Mahogany Bay (Isla Roatan), Belize, Costa Maya and Cozumel.
- Two 14-day, eight-port Carnival Journeys visiting destinations in the Caribbean, Central and South America and the Panama Canal on Oct. 24, 2021, and Jan. 16, 2022.

**Ship swap**

Also in 2021, Carnival Breeze will return to Galveston from Port Canaveral, Florida. Carnival Breeze — which is 1,004 feet long and carries 3,690 guests — will be the newest and largest ship to operate a short-cruise itinerary from Galveston. It will offer:

- Four-day "weekend cruises" departing Thursdays and featuring a day-long visit to Cozumel
- Five-day cruises departing Mondays and Saturdays with stops at Cozumel and either Progreso or Costa Maya



As Carnival Breeze arrives, Carnival Freedom will leave Galveston in May 2021. Details of Carnival Freedom's new homeport have not been announced yet.

**Schedule shift**

After previously offering four- and five-day cruises, Carnival Dream will offer the following six- and eight-day cruise schedule from Galveston beginning May 8, 2021:

- Six-day cruises visit Costa Maya, Cozu-

- mel and Belize or Mahogany Bay
- Eight-day cruises feature Key West, Freeport, Half Moon Cay and Nassau. Carnival Freedom currently operates this schedule.

The company's fourth ship in Galveston, Carnival Vista, will continue operating its week-long cruise program with two different three-port, seven-day western Caribbean options.

"As North America's fourth-busiest cruise port, the Port of Galveston is pleased to welcome the Carnival Radiance," Rodger Rees, Galveston Wharves CEO and Port Director, said in a statement. "Since Carnival made Galveston its homeport almost 20 years ago, more than 7.5 million Carnival Cruise Line passengers have embarked from our wharves. As we grow, we'll continue to focus on delivering great service to Carnival and its passengers."

The Port of Galveston ranked as the No. 4 busiest port by cruise embarkations for 2016, according to a biennial economic impact analysis Cruise Lines International Association released in October 2017. The port handles nearly 1.97 million cruise passenger movements annually, according to its website.



And more Galveston cruise growth is in the works.

The Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves and Miami-based Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. (NYSE: RCL) entered into a memorandum of understanding regarding a new cruise terminal in December. Royal Caribbean expects to in-

vest nearly \$100 million to build the new terminal. The 200,000-square-foot terminal will be built on 10 acres of land in the southeast section of the port known as Pier 10.

The new terminal is expected to generate an additional 1 million passengers by the contract's halfway point. Royal Caribbean's lease will start with a 20-year initial term and can be extended with four 10-year options. The new terminal also will free up space for additional sailings at existing terminals. (Courtesy <https://www.bizjournals.com>)

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Remember President Donald Trump's threat to slap a tariff on every product the U.S. imports from Mexico? That threat in early June, which the president later dropped, had auto executives worried.

The latest numbers from Mexico shows why so many in the auto industry were so concerned.

Mexican factories sent 1.37 million vehicles north of the border during the first half of this year — making up 16.3% of the U.S. auto market, according to Mexican auto industry trade group, the Asociacion Mexicana de la Industria Automotriz.



**BMW workers in San Luis Potosi Mexico working on 3 series cars.**  
(Photo/CNBC)

That's up 13% over the same time last year and setting up 2019 for another record-breaking year for Mexican auto imports. A record 2.6 million vehicles were imported from Mexico to the U.S. in 2018, making up 15% of the U.S. auto market, according to the Mexican auto industry's latest report released Monday.

In June alone, automakers exported just under 250,000 new cars, trucks and SUVs to the U.S., an increase of 9.2% compared with the same month last year.

Those numbers are further confirmation automakers, with a few exceptions, continue to add and expand assembly lines in Mexico, even if it draws the ire of the Trump administration.

In early June, Trump threatened to put a series of escalating tariffs starting at 5% on every product imported to the U.S. from Mexico unless the Mexican government helped curb the number of migrants crossing into the U.S. The threat prompted Mexico to

**First Half Of 2019 Saw Large Rise In Numbers**  
**Mexican-Made Autos**  
**Stream Across U.S. Border**



**Trucks carrying cars line up in front of the Otay Mesa border crossing in Tijuana.**  
(Photo/Getty Images)

**Overview**

**Mexican factories sent 1.37 million vehicles north of the border during the first half of this year — making up 16.3% of the U.S. auto market**  
**Mexico's leading auto industry trade group, the Asociacion Mexicana de la Industria Automotriz, released new data this week.**  
**A record 2.6 million vehicles were imported from Mexico to the U.S. in 2018, making up 15% of the U.S. auto market.**

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

take actions at the border and after nine days of threats, Trump dropped the idea.



**BMW Series 3 cars produced in San Luis Potosi Mexico and being loaded onto a**

truck for export.  
(Photo/CNBC)

For auto executives, the threat may have caused headaches, but it didn't force any changes to supply and assembly lines that are firmly entrenched in Mexico.

Take BMW, in early June it officially opened a new assembly plant in San Luis Potosi that builds 3 Series sedans, its most popular car. Most of those cars will be shipped north of the border and sold in the U.S..

"Our production network is flexible, but at this point I don't see any reason to change our plans," BMW board member Oliver Zipse told CNBC. (Courtesy cnbc.com)

**Related**

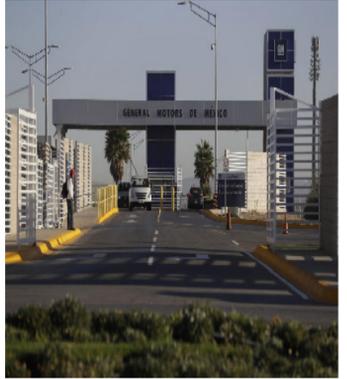
**10 Most Popular American Cars That Are Made In Mexico**

**DETROIT** — Some of America's most popular cars and trucks are made in Mexico — for now.

Many Americans have benefited from Mexico's emergence as a production hub. Low-cost production helps keep sticker prices lower on vehicles such as the Ford Fusion and Nissan Sentra.

But Mexico's growing share of the auto market is a sore spot for President Donald Trump, who has threatened to impose border taxes on Mexican imports to force com-

panies to make cars in the U.S.



**Above: Cars exit the General Motors assembly plant in Villa de Reyes, outside San Luis Potosi, Mexico, on Jan. 4, 2017. Workers have produced Aveo and Trax vehicles at the plant since 2008.**

Under the North American Free Trade Agreement, Mexico's share of North America's vehicle production has risen to 20 percent from 3 percent three decades ago. It's expected to hit 26 percent by 2020, according to LMC Automotive, a forecasting firm. The trade pact also contributed to a 30 percent decline in U.S. auto manufacturing jobs between 1994 and 2013, according to the nonpartisan Peterson Economic Institute, although factory automation played a role as well.

Most cars sold in the U.S. are still made here. Of the 17.5 million new vehicles sold in the U.S. last year, 9.8 million were made in the U.S. and just under 2 million were made in Mexico, according to WardsAuto. Canada and Japan followed closely behind.

Here are the most popular Mexican-made vehicles in the U.S. and the total number sold in 2016 that were built in Mexico. In cases where vehicles were built in both the U.S. and Mexico, WardsAuto estimated the amount of Mexican-built production.

Ford Fusion: 257,867, Ram pickup: 246,000; Chevrolet Silverado: 222,000; Nissan Sentra: 214,709; Nissan Versa: 132,214; Volkswagen Jetta: 121,107; Dodge Journey: 106,759; GMC

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