

Contact lenses recall: 1-day Acuvue Moist for Astigmatism – MHRA urges patients to check their boxes for recalled lots

Users of certain Johnson & Johnson Acuvue daily disposable contact lenses are being urged by the MHRA to check their lenses, due to a voluntary product recall of specific lots initiated by the company. The recall affects a low level of stock of certain lots of 1-day Acuvue Moist for Astigmatism lenses. If not already contacted, customers should return these lenses to their supplier.

The affected lots may have particles on the contact lens or in the contact lens blister solution. If the particles are not noticed before insertion into the eye, this could cause eye redness or discomfort or corneal abrasion (damage to the surface of the eye). There have been no reports of serious adverse events to date.

Johnson & Johnson has notified affected opticians and optometrists, recalling the affected lots and has instructed them to contact patients who may have received the affected product. Contact lens users who are concerned should speak to their optician or optometrist.

Customers can check if their products are affected, by checking the lot number of the lens boxes against the list published by Johnson & Johnson in the company's [field safety notice](#) (FSN) Lot numbers are displayed on the back or side of each carton of 28 lenses, as well as on the foil cover of individual lenses.

Mark Birse, MHRA Group Manager, Device Safety and Surveillance, comments:

“Whilst the risk is low, the MHRA takes the safety of the medicines and devices we regulate very seriously.

“It is therefore important that as many customers as possible are made aware of the need to check their lenses for these lot numbers.

“Contact lens users who still have concerns should contact their optician or optometrist. They can also report any adverse effects to the MHRA's [Yellow Card Scheme](#).”

Notes to Editor

[Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency](#) is responsible for regulating all medicines and medical devices in the UK by ensuring they work and are acceptably safe. All our work is underpinned by robust and fact-based judgements to ensure that the benefits justify any risks.

MHRA is a centre of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency which also includes the [National Institute for Biological Standards and Control \(NIBSC\)](#) and the [Clinical Practice Research Datalink \(CPRD\)](#). MHRA is an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care.

Contact lenses are a medical device. The MHRA has produced a guide to [buying](#) contact lenses for personal use, and works with the [Love Your Lenses](#) campaign of the General Optical Council.

[Three non-executives join HMRC Board](#)

Michael Hearty, Patricia Gallan and Paul Morton will work alongside lead non-executive Mervyn Walker and existing non-executive directors Juliette Scott, Simon Ricketts and Alice Maynard, bringing their knowledge and expertise to HMRC strategy and performance discussions and providing counsel and challenge to our [Executive Committee](#).

Michael Hearty is an experienced accountant with extensive strategic and operational leadership experience as a Director General at the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Education. Michael was previously on the Board of the Welsh Government, advising the First Minister and the Finance Minister for Wales.

He is also a non-executive director or adviser with Public Health England, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust and Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System.

Michael steps up to become chair of the HMRC audit and risk committee, of which he was already a member, overseeing the financial performance and propriety of the department.

Patricia Gallan is a former senior police officer who was Assistant Commissioner Specialist Crime and Operations of the Metropolitan Police, in London, until 2018. She previously served as Deputy Assistant Commissioner (Specialist Operations – Security and Protection) and is a former Assistant Chief Constable and temporary Deputy Chief Constable of Merseyside Police.

Paul Morton was appointed Tax Director of the Office of Tax Simplification in March 2017. Before that he was Tax Director for RELX Group plc (formerly Reed Elsevier), the global information and analytics group, for 12 years, where he was actively engaged with the Organisation for European Co-operation and Development (OECD) and tax policy makers in the UK, US and EU on tax policy matters.

Previously, he was a tax manager and adviser at Royal Dutch Shell and worked at KPMG on international tax and insurance companies, having originally joined Inland Revenue as a tax inspector.

Home Secretary launches Windrush Advisory Group

Community and faith leaders were brought together by the Home Secretary to advise on how the department can maximise the number of people applying to the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

The Home Secretary co-chaired a meeting of community leaders today (Thursday 26 September), alongside Martin Forde QC, the independent adviser on the design of the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

Those attending the roundtable were invited to join a Windrush Advisory Group, which will meet regularly with senior officials in the Home Office.

The group will aim to build trust with the affected communities so that people of all nationalities come forward to claim compensation.

It will also play a vital role in advising and shaping the Home Office's ongoing outreach and engagement strategy on the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

Home Secretary, Priti Patel said:

The Windrush generation were failed by successive governments and I want to ensure we reach all those affected through the Windrush Compensation Scheme through direct community engagement.

This is why I am enlisting trusted faith and community leaders from across the UK to raise awareness of the support available and to work with us directly on delivering this scheme.

By working hand in hand with our community partners the government will be able to provide the essential support to members of the Windrush generation and address the suffering experienced by many people across a range of communities.

Martin Forde QC, independent advisor on the Windrush Compensation Scheme said:

There have been a number of misleading claims made about the compensation scheme, but these could not be further from the truth. The scheme has been designed to be easy to use, generous and sympathetic to the experiences of those who suffered.

So my message is clear, if you feel you have suffered in any way please come forward and make a claim.

The Home Secretary and Martin Forde stressed the importance to all those who have suffered to come forward so they can be helped to evidence their status in the UK and to engage with the compensation scheme.

The Home Secretary also emphasised to community leaders that Immigration Enforcement will not take action against an individual as a result of them coming forward to the Taskforce or applying for the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

The Home Office is holding and attending a series of public events around the country, to reach those who have been impacted by Windrush and ensure they are aware of the help that is available to them.

There have been over 20 events since April 2019. Members of the Commonwealth Citizens' Taskforce and the Windrush Compensation Scheme are on hand at these events to explain what help and support is available and how to make a claim.

The Windrush Compensation Scheme was launched in April this year to provide payments to eligible individuals who did not have the right documentation to prove their status in the UK and suffered adverse effects on their life as a result.

It is open to almost anyone from a Commonwealth country who arrived and settled in the UK before 1973. Certain children and grandchildren of those arriving before 1973 and some close family members may also be eligible to apply.

It is also open to anyone from any nationality who has the right to live or work in the UK without any restrictions or is now a British Citizen, and arrived in the UK before 31 December 1988.

Read more [information on Windrush Compensation Scheme community events and the Windrush Compensation Scheme](#).

Individuals can apply to the Windrush Compensation Scheme by [downloading the claim form](#).

[Safer journeys for cyclists and pedestrians thanks to Highways England scheme](#)

Work will be carried out improving the footpath and cycle route near to junction 10 of the M6 to ensure the safety of local people and provide an alternative route when major works get under way on the Walsall roundabout.

Local people and businesses are invited to a public information event on Friday 11 October to find out more about the new Connecting Bentley route. This will bring improvements for pedestrians and cyclists along Bloxwich Lane, Churchill Road and Queen Elizabeth Avenue, creating an improved continuous link to the north of M6 junction 10.

The work will be carried out thanks to a ring-fenced fund provided by Highways England to address issues beyond the traditional roads investment.

Designated Funds are allocated to schemes that improve the surroundings of the Highways England road network and benefit those who live and work alongside it.

When the main construction works for the £78 million upgrade of junction 10 are under way, access for pedestrians and cyclists will be restricted in the area and an alternative route will be needed.

The upgrade of the junction will ease congestion at the notorious bottleneck in Walsall and is due to start in the new year. The bridges over the motorway are to be replaced, increasing the junction to four lanes, and avoiding the need for extensive maintenance as it is now over 50 years old.

This is a joint venture between Highways England and Walsall Council, supported by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership.

The improvements being carried out as part of the new Connecting Bentley route include:

- Footpath widening – improving access for people with pushchairs and wheelchair users as well as creating additional capacity to accommodate cyclists.
- Pedestrian crossings – the installation of new LED Belisha beacons which improve safety by providing increased illumination during bright sunny days and reduced glare at night through automatic light dimming. Also high friction surfacing on the approach to crossings which reduces skidding.
- School safety – the existing ‘School Zone’ on Churchill Road will be upgraded to allow for new interactive signage which will illuminate during school hours warning drivers of the presence of pupils.
- Improvements to existing street lighting – we will install LED lights which last longer and use less energy as well as bringing improved visibility. Installation of LED street lighting has proved successful in reducing crime rates.

The scheme will link in with the existing cycle route on Churchill Road and the cycle improvement measures installed as part of a recent Local Safety Scheme on Bloxwich Lane.

The work, which starts on Saturday 26 October, will involve some temporary traffic lights and lane closures to enable the upgrade to be carried out safely. It should be completed by the end of March 2020.

More information is available at the public information event taking place on

Friday 11 October between 2pm and 6pm outside the shops in the Bentley Public Realm area.

Highways England Project Manager David Reed said:

We understand that major schemes such as the much-needed upgrade of junction 10 can cause disruption for local communities and we appreciate people's patience.

Our designated funds enable us to provide environmental, social and economic benefits to the people, communities and businesses who live and work alongside our strategic road network.

This particular project will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and schoolchildren in the area not only during the junction 10 works but beyond.

Deputy Leader of Walsall Council Adrian Andrew said:

The improvements to junction 10 will transform journeys for residents and commercial traffic. These additional improvements bring benefits to the wider community providing a safer environment for cyclists and schoolchildren alike.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

[Hong Kong protests and the Chinese-British Joint Declaration: Foreign Secretary's statement](#)

I remain seriously concerned by the situation in Hong Kong.

Protests are now in their sixteenth week. Millions have exercised their right to peaceful protest. The majority are doing so peacefully and lawfully.

However, I know the House will join me in condemning violence that we have seen on the streets of Hong Kong from a minority of those engaged in those protests. It is essential that protests are conducted peacefully and within the law, and that the response of the authorities are proportionate.

With that in mind the United Kingdom supports the 'One Country, Two Systems' model and framework, and of course the rights, freedoms and high degree of autonomy granted to Hong Kong and its people under the Chinese-British Joint Declaration.

That Joint Declaration was signed by the Government of the People's Republic of China and Her Majesty's Government in 1984, and the autonomy, the rights and the freedoms it guarantees enshrined in the Hong Kong Basic Law. It remains as valid today as it was when it was signed almost 35 years ago. It is a legally binding international treaty. And we expect China to live up to its obligations under that treaty and indeed as a permanent member of the UN Security Council under its wider international human rights law obligations and indeed the UN Charter.

[Hong Kong protests and the Chinese-British Joint Declaration: Foreign Secretary's statement](#)

The UK government believes that a resolution can only be achieved with meaningful political dialogue which builds trust with all parties on all sides. I welcome Carrie Lam's formal withdrawal of the Extradition Bill on 4 September and indeed some of the incremental steps that she has taken to improve the credibility of the Police Complaints Council. The initiative this week from the Hong Kong Government to consult with the people it serves will be a first step on the essential path towards a more inclusive political dialogue, one which builds trust with all communities in Hong Kong.

In recent weeks, Mr Speaker, I have spoken both to the Hong Kong Chief Executive, Carrie Lam, and to the Chinese Foreign Minister, State Councillor Wang Yi. I made clear the UK's continuing support for the "One Country, Two Systems". But I have also made clear our concern about human rights and in particular the mistreatment of those exercising the right to lawful and peaceful protest. And the concerns of those peaceful protesters should be addressed by political dialogue, not crushed by force.

I have also spoken to a wide range of my counterparts internationally and I welcome the strong statements from our international partners. The Prime Minister raised Hong Kong at the recent G7 meeting, where all G7 partners reaffirmed the importance of the Joint Declaration and called for an end to the violence.

We will continue to engage with Hong Kong and Chinese the government, reiterating the fundamental importance of upholding the UK-Chinese Joint Declaration. Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy is what guarantees its future prosperity and success. It is incumbent on all sides to respect it.