

Safety Alert



SUBJECT: Non-sterile Alcohol free wipes

RECIPIENTS: All Council Services

ISSUE DATE: Feb 2026

REF: HSA27

UKHSA and MHRA are urging the public **not** to use 4 specified non-sterile alcohol-free wipe products due to the risk of infection associated with their use.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) are [reminding the public not to use 4 specified non-sterile alcohol-free wipe products](#) under any circumstances due to an ongoing risk of infection associated with their use.

Additionally, UKHSA and MHRA would like to remind people that non-sterile alcohol-free wipes, of any type or brand, should not be used for first aid, applied on broken or damaged skin and should never be used for cleaning intravenous lines.

There have been 59 confirmed cases of *Burkholderia stabilis* associated with some non-sterile alcohol-free wipe products - identified in an outbreak in the United Kingdom from January 2018 to 3 February 2026. A small number of cases continue to be detected. These have included some serious infections which have required hospital treatment and 1 death has been attributed to *Burkholderia stabilis* infection.

Burkholderia stabilis is a bacteria found in natural environments, rarely causing infection in healthy individuals. The risk to the general population is very low. However, immunocompromised individuals, those with other risk factors such as cystic fibrosis and patients at home with intravenous lines, are at higher risk of developing infection.

The following products were found to be contaminated with *Burkholderia*. These four products **should not** be used under any circumstances:

- ValueAid Alcohol Free Cleansing Wipes
- Microsafe Moist Wipe Alcohol Free
- Steroplast Sterowipe Alcohol Free Cleansing Wipes
- Reliwipe Alcohol Free Cleansing Wipes (testing revealed contamination with a *Burkholderia* strain not related to the outbreak cases)

The MHRA issued notices to the sellers of these products in July, resulting in their withdrawal from sale. However, some of [these products may still remain](#) in First Aid kits and people's homes.

ACTION- Managers and/or Staff responsible for the provision/re-stocking of First aid kits should check for these wipes. If any of the identified affected products are found, stop using them immediately and dispose of them in standard household waste and replace them with a suitable safe alternative.