

U.S. agencies probing Johnson & Johnson over asbestos in talc

February 22 2019



(HealthDay)—Johnson & Johnson is being investigated by the U.S.

Justice Department and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission over possible asbestos contamination of the company's baby powder and other talc-based products.

In a securities filing, the company said it was "cooperating with these government inquiries and will be producing documents in response" to subpoenas it had received, *The New York Times* reported. In a separate statement, Johnson & Johnson said that "the inquiries are related to [news reports](#)" about numerous lawsuits by consumers who claim the company's talc products caused cancers.

Johnson & Johnson has been hit with about 13,000 lawsuits linking the company's body powders with [ovarian cancer](#) or mesothelioma, the *Times* reported. In December, news reports said internal documents revealed decades of communications within Johnson & Johnson about the risk for asbestos in its talc products even as the company tried to keep the issue secret.

On Wednesday, Johnson & Johnson said "decades of independent tests by regulators and the world's leading labs prove Johnson & Johnson's [baby powder](#) is safe and asbestos-free, and does not cause cancer," the *Times* reported.

More information: [The New York Times Article](#)
[More Information - American Cancer Society](#)

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Citation: U.S. agencies probing Johnson & Johnson over asbestos in talc (2019, February 22) retrieved 6 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-02-agencies-probing-johnson-asbestos-talc.html>

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