



Health Alert Network Message 22-09: Powdered Infant Formula Recall and Reporting Cases of *Cronobacter sakazakii*

Origination Date:
February 21, 2022

Revision Dates (List All Revision Dates):

Powdered Infant Formula Recall

Following FDA's [announcement](#) of an [advisory](#) to alert consumers to avoid purchasing or using certain powdered infant formulas, Abbott [announced](#) a voluntary recall of powder formula including Similac, Alimentum, and EleCare manufactured in Sturgis, MI citing four consumer complaints related to *Cronobacter sakazakii* and *Salmonella* Newport in infants. The USDA has issued initial guidance to WIC state agencies and outlined a procedure for requesting regulatory waivers as we work to respond to Abbott's voluntary formula recall. LA WIC is actively working to develop a process for ensuring WIC Participants have access to infant formula that has not been recalled.

In the meantime, LA WIC has issued the following guidance, available at LouisianaWIC.org, for WIC Participants impacted by this recall. Louisiana WIC Participants have the same rights as all other consumers under this recall, and may follow any of the steps below to replace recalled formula:

1. Return the Formula to the Vendor – consumers may return recalled formula to the Vendor (store) where it was purchased.
2. Return the Formula to Abbott – consumers may follow directions from Abbott, provided via similacrecall.com or call 1-800-956-8540 for information on returning recalled formula.
3. Return the Product to the local WIC Clinic – Participants may return recalled formula to their local WIC Clinic.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact LA WIC at (504) 568-8229. As a reminder, the recalled formulas are Similac*, Alimentum or EleCare powdered infant formulas if:

- the first two digits of the code are 22 through 37 and
- the code on the container contains K8, SH, or Z2, and
- the expiration date is 4-1-2022 (APR 2022) or later.

Products that do not contain the information listed above are not impacted by this advisory.

**Similac products affected are powdered Total Comfort, Similac Spit-Up, Similac Sensitive and Similac Advanced*

Case Reporting

In order to identify cases associated with this investigation, the Louisiana Department of Health is asking providers to report cases of *Cronobacter sakazakii* among infants who consumed powdered infant formula in the 10 days before illness onset. **Please call the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Hotline at (800) 256-2748 to report cases of formula-fed infants with laboratory-confirmed *Cronobacter sakazakii* infection between November 2020 and present date.**