



Health Alert Network Message 22-11: Powdered Infant Formula Recall Information

Origination Date:

February 25, 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 Food and Nutrition Service issued a [press release](#), including links to federal waivers of certain WIC regulations, on February 23, 2022.

The USDA has approved three federal waivers to allow for flexibility for Louisiana WIC families and WIC vendors to:

1. Allow substitutions of non-contract (non-Similac) formulas
2. Allow for alternative standard can sizes
3. Allow WIC vendors to exchange products redeemed with WIC benefits

These waivers are temporary and will expire on March 31, 2022.

RECALL INFORMATION

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.

For more information about the Louisiana WIC response for participants and clinics, please visit:

<https://louisianawic.org/about/benefits/>.

For more information about the Louisiana WIC response for WIC-authorized vendors (grocery stores), please visit: <https://ldh.la.gov/page/990>.

Consumers, including Louisiana WIC participants, may contact Abbott directly at www.similacrecall.com or by calling 1-800-986-8540. Frequently Asked Questions can be found here:

<https://www.similacrecall.com/us/en/faq.html>.

WIC STANDARD CONTRACT FORMULAS

WIC participants that have February or March formula benefits available on their EBT card will have two options for replacing impacted formula.

Option 1: Purchase the following formulas from WIC approved vendors without returning to clinic *:

Recalled Similac Formulas		Possible Formula Substitutions	
Brand/Name	Can Size/Type	Brand/Name	Can Size/Type
Similac Total Comfort	12.6oz powder	Enfamil Gentlease	12.4oz powder
		Parent's Choice Gentle	12oz powder
		Enfamil Reguline	12.4oz powder
		Gerber Good Start Soothpro	12.4oz powder
Similac Spit-Up	12.5oz powder	Enfamil AR	12.9oz powder
Similac Advance	12.4oz powder	Enfamil Premium Infant	12.5oz powder
		Gerber GoodStart Gentle Pro Infant	12.7oz powder
		Parent's Choice Advantage	12.4oz powder
		Parent's Choice	12.5oz powder
Similac Sensitive	12.5oz powder	Parent's Choice Sensitivity	12oz powder

*If they need credit on their EBT card for already redeemed formula, they do have to return to clinic to get the full formula amount back on their card.

Option 2: If participants are unable to purchase any of the above formula substitutions, they must return to the clinic to have one of the substitutions listed below loaded to their EBT cards.

Please note that these options may vary in size and the benefit units issued may be less due to the change in can sizes. All formula substitutions are only valid until March 31, 2022. Participants are required to receive their previously prescribed standard contract formula as of April 1, 2022.

SUBSTITUTIONS (ALTERNATE 1) – Includes powder can sizes ranging from 19 – 23.2 oz.

Recalled Similac Formulas		Possible Formula Substitutions	
Brand/Name	Can Size/Type	Brand/Name	Can Size/Type
Similac Total Comfort Alternate 1	12.6oz powder	Enfamil Gentlease	19.9oz powder
		Gerber Good Start SoothePro	19.4oz powder
		Signature Care Gentle Infant Formula	21.5oz powder
		Tippy Toes Infant Gentle	21.5oz powder
Similac Spit-Up Alternate 1	12.5oz powder	Enfamil AR	21.5oz powder
Similac Advance Alternate 1	12.4oz powder	Comfort Advantage Infant Formula	23.2oz powder
		Signature Care Advantage Infant Formula	23.2oz powder
		Signature Care Infant Formula Premium	22.2oz powder
		Gerber Good Start Gentle Pro	20oz powder
		Enfamil NeuroPro Infant	20.7oz powder
		Tippy Toes Infant Formula Advantage	23.2oz powder
Similac Sensitive Alternate 1	12.5oz powder	Comfort Sensitivity Infant Formula	22.5oz powder
		Signature Care Sensitivity Infant Formula	22.5oz powder
		Enfamil NeuroPro Sensitive	19.5oz powder
		Tippy Toes Infant Formula Sensitive	22.5oz powder

SUBSTITUTIONS (ALTERNATE 2) – Includes powder can sizes ranging from 27 – 35 oz.

Recalled Similac Formulas		Possible Formula Substitutions	
Brand/Name	Can Size/Type	Brand/Name	Can Size/Type
Similac Total Comfort Alternate 2	12.6oz powder	Gerber Good Start SoothePro	30.6oz powder
		Similac Pro Total Comfort	29.8oz powder
		Enfamil Gentlease	27.7oz powder
		Tippy Toes Infant Gentle	33.2oz powder
Similac Spit-Up Alternate 2	12.5oz powder	<i>No substitution for this size</i>	
Similac Advance Alternate 2	12.4oz powder	Comfort Advantage Infant Formula	35oz powder
		Signature Care Advantage Infant Formula	35oz powder
		Signature Care Infant Formula	35oz powder
		Gerber Good Start Gentle Pro	32oz powder
		Similac Pro Advance	30.8oz powder
		Similac 360 Total Care	30.8oz powder
		Tippy Toes Infant Formula	35oz powder
		Tippy Toes Infant Formula Advantage	35oz powder
Similac Sensitive Alternate 2	12.5oz powder	Similac Pro Sensitive	29.8oz powder
		Similac 360 Total Care Sensitive	30.2oz powder
		Comfort Sensitivity Infant Formula	33.2oz powder
		Tippy Toes Infant Formula Sensitive	33.2oz powder

WIC EXEMPT FORMULAS

The only impacted exempt formulas are Alimentum, Elecare, and Elecare Jr. for Food Package III. Participants with these formulas currently on their EBT card **must get a new [WIC-48](#)** with an alternative option.

WIC PARTICIPANTS WITH NO FEBRUARY BENEFITS

WIC participants that have redeemed February benefits and have formula that is part of the Abbott recall can take one of the following steps.

1. **Return to Vendor**
Participants may return recalled product to the vendor (store) where it was purchased. **WIC authorized vendors must treat all customers the same with regard to the recall exchange process and possible substitutes (which may include, but are not limited to, the same product, a substitute product, store credit, or a cash refund). As a part of the recall exchange process, WIC authorized vendors are not required to, nor does LA WIC recommend that they, determine whether a product was purchased using WIC benefits.**
2. **Return to Abbott**
Follow directions from Abbott, provided via www.similacrecall.com or 1-800-986-8540 for returning recalled product.
3. **Return to Clinic**
Participants may return recalled product to the clinic. The clinic may then reissue EBT benefits to allow WIC Participants to purchase a similar product to the recalled product.

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 1-800-256-2748 to report cases of formula-fed infants with laboratory-confirmed *Cronobacter sakazakii* infection between November 2020 and present date.**