Montana Health Alert Network

DPHHS HAN

ADVISORY

Cover Sheet

DATE

February 25, 2022

SUBJECT

Voluntary Recall of Infant Formulas Due to Potential Contamination with *Cronobacter Sakazakii* and *Salmonella Newport*

INSTRUCTIONS

DISTRIBUTE to your local HAN contacts. Be sure to include your network of providers. This HAN is intended for general sharing of information.

- Time for Forwarding: **As Soon As Possible**
- Please forward to DPHHS at hhshan@mt.gov
- **Remove this cover sheet before redistributing and replace it with your own**

For LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT reference only

DPHHS Subject Matter Resource for more information regarding this HAN, contact:

DPHHS CDCP

Epidemiology Section
1-406-444-0273

Food and Consumer Safety
1-406-444-2837

For technical issues related to the HAN message contact the Emergency Preparedness Section at 1-406-444-0919

DPHHS HAN Website:
www.han.mt.gov

REMOVE THIS COVER SHEET BEFORE REDISTRIBUTING AND REPLACE IT WITH YOUR OWN

Please ensure that DPHHS is included on your HAN distribution list.
hhshan@mt.gov

Categories of Health Alert Messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
Information Service: passes along low level priority messages that do not fit other HAN categories and are for informational purposes only.

Please update your HAN contact information on the Montana Public Health Directory

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Information Sheet

DATE

February 25, 2022

SUBJECT

Voluntary Recall of Infant Formulas Due to Potential Contamination with *Cronobacter sakazakii* and *Salmonella* Newport

BACKGROUND

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is investigating consumer complaints linked to powdered infant formula. The manufacturer of the formula, Abbott Nutrition, has initiated a voluntary recall of certain powder formulas manufactured in Sturgis, Michigan after receiving four consumer complaints related to *Cronobacter sakazakii* or *Salmonella* Newport infection in infants who had consumed the powdered infant formula. Complaints were received between September 2021 and January 2022. The complaints involved three *Cronobacter* cases and one *Salmonella* case, and all four infants were hospitalized as a result of their infection. *Cronobacter* may have contributed to death in one case. To date, there have been no confirmed cases of *Cronobacter* or *Salmonella* infection in Montana linked to consumption of this product.

INFORMATION

The FDA is advising consumers not to use Similac, Alimentum, or EleCare powdered infant formulas. Recalled products can be identified by the 7-to-9-digit code and expiration date on the bottom of the package. Products are included in the recall if they meet all three of these conditions:

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

Parents and caregivers of newborns and infants should throw away any remaining recalled powdered formula or return it for a refund. Consumers can check if their product is part of the recall by visiting the company's website https://www.similacrecall.com/us/en/home.html.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Clinicians

Clinicians should be aware of the following information, especially when treating infants:

Cronobacter bacteria can cause severe, life-threatening sepsis or meningitis. Symptoms of sepsis and meningitis may include poor feeding, irritability, temperature changes, jaundice (yellow skin and whites of the eyes), grunting breaths, and abnormal movements. *Cronobacter* infection may also cause bowel damage and may spread through the blood to other parts of the body. Typical signs and symptoms of *Salmonella* infection include sudden onset of diarrhea, abdominal pain, fever, nausea, and often vomiting. Infants who present with these signs and symptoms should be assessed for possible exposure to the recalled powder infant formula.

Testing for *Cronobacter* and *Salmonella* should be performed if an infant has a history of consuming these products and has the signs and symptoms described above. **Report suspected cases of *Cronobacter* or *Salmonella* infection in an infant with exposure to the recalled product to your local health department.** If recalled product that the infant consumed is still available, have the parent or guardian hold onto it for potential foodborne testing, which will be coordinated through local public health.

Local Health Departments

Parents with supplies of Similac, Alimentum, or EleCare powdered infant formulas that are part of the voluntary recall https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/abbott-voluntarily-recalls-powder-formulas-manufactured-one-plant should be advised to **immediately stop feeding it to their infant.** Throw the product away or return it to the place of purchase for a refund. To check if a formula is involved in the voluntary recall, consumers can enter their product lot code on the company's website https://www.similacrecall.com/us/en/home.html.

Parents of an infant experiencing symptoms that could be related to *Cronobacter* or *Salmonella* infection (e.g., fever, poor feeding, very low energy, seizures, diarrhea, vomiting), should be advised to notify their child's healthcare provider and seek medical care for their child immediately.

The FDA and Montana DPHHS encourage local public health departments to collect and test consumer product samples for *Cronobacter* and *Salmonella* linked to this recall if they meet one of the following conditions:

- The agency has received or is aware of a consumer complaint regarding an infant illness and the illness/complaint is associated with the recalled lots; or
- The agency is aware of a confirmed *Cronobacter sakazakii* or *Salmonella* illness in an infant who consumed infant formula from one of the recalled lots.

Call the CDEpi section at 406-444-0273 if you have a suspect *Cronobacter* or *Salmonella* case associated with this recall. CDEpi and the Food and Consumer Safety Section (FCSS) can coordinate testing of the product.

Additional information on this investigation can be found on the FDA website, including photographs of the affected product and lot information: https://www.fda.gov/food/outbreaks-foodborne-illness/fda-investigation-cronobacter-and-salmonella-complaints-powdered-infant-formula-february-2022 .

Consider sharing the following message with your community members: if your infant got sick after consuming recalled formula, call your local health department or report it via the Montana DPHHS consumer complaint form https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcss/consumercomplaintform. If you still have recalled product, immediately stop using it, but hold onto it for possible testing.