



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

February 28, 2022

MEDICAL ADVISORY:
FDA INVESTIGATION OF CONSUMER COMPLAINTS OF *CRONOBACTER* AND *SALMONELLA*
INFECTIONS —POWDERED INFANT FORMULA

Dear Healthcare Providers:

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) has been advised regarding consumer complaints of infant illnesses linked to the voluntary recall of products from Abbott Nutrition's Sturgis, Michigan facility. These complaints include three reports of *Cronobacter sakazakii* infections and one report of *Salmonella* Newport infection in infants. All four cases were hospitalized, and *C. sakazakii* may have contributed to a death in one case. Hawaii has not reported any confirmed illnesses related to the recall.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is advising consumers not to use the recalled Similac, Alimentum, or EleCare powdered infant formulas. Products included in the recall have all three items below:

- 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

Clinicians should suspect possible *Cronobacter* infections in patients who consumed the recalled formula and have clinically compatible illness.

Infants with *Cronobacter* infection may present with initial symptoms of fever, poor feeding, excessive crying, or very low energy. Some infants may also have seizures. *Cronobacter* can also cause sepsis or meningitis. Clinicians should obtain cultures (blood or cerebrospinal fluid) of patients with meningitis or sepsis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not recommend testing infants for *Cronobacter* infection unless they have symptoms of meningitis or sepsis, even if they consumed the recalled formula. CDC does not recommend testing stool for *Cronobacter* since infection does not typically cause diarrhea in infants.

Most people infected with *Salmonella* develop diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps six hours to six days after being exposed to the bacteria. Infants under 12 months of age are more likely to have severe illness. Treatment for *Salmonella* identified from any source in an infant should be managed in collaboration with a pediatric or infectious disease specialist.

Any suspected or confirmed cases of *Cronobacter sakazakii* or *S. Newport* associated with infant formula should be reported immediately to HDOH as an unusual case or cluster.

Oahu (Disease Reporting Line)	(808) 586-4586
Maui District Health Office	(808) 984-8213
Kauai District Health Office	(808) 241-3563
Hawaii Island District Health Office (Hilo)	(808) 933-0912
Hawaii Island District Health Office (Kona)	(808) 322-4877
After hours on Oahu	(808) 600-3625
After hours on neighbor islands	(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

We appreciate your assistance in monitoring and preventing infections among Hawaii's residents.

Sincerely,



Sarah K. Kemble, M.D.
State Epidemiologist