

# Frequently Asked Questions: Recall of Certain Powdered Infant Formulas

## 1. What is this infant formula recall about?

On February 17, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a press release stating that along with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), they were investigating four complaints of infant illness related to products produced at Abbott Nutrition's facility located in Sturgis, Michigan, received from September 6, 2021 to December 18, 2021. Complaints included three reports of *Cronobacter sakazakii* infections and one report of *Salmonella* newport infection in infants. All infants were hospitalized and there was one death. Learn more at [www.fda.gov/consumers/infant-formula-recall-what-know](http://www.fda.gov/consumers/infant-formula-recall-what-know).

## 2. How do I know if my infant's formula is included on the recall?

This recall does not affect all Abbott products. It only affects the specific powder products (liquid formulas are not impacted) that have the affected lot numbers explained below.

The FDA is advising consumers not to use Similac, Alimentum or EleCare powdered formulas if:

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

In addition to products described above, Abbott Nutrition has recalled Similac PM 60/40 with a lot code of 27032K80 (can)/27032K800 (case).

The codes and dates are found at the bottom of the container.



You can use an online tool to check if your product was affected. Visit [similacrecall.com](http://similacrecall.com) and click "Check Lot Number." Enter the lot number found on the bottom of the formula's packaging. It is near the expiration date.

## 3. What do I need to do now?

- If your child is consuming formula, check the container codes and expiration date.
  - If the formula you have **IS** included in the recall, stop using immediately. Discard or return the product to the merchant.
  - If the formula you have **IS NOT** included in the recall, you can continue using the formula.
- Consider other feeding options such as breastfeeding.
- Visit the [CDC website](http://CDC website) to learn more about preventing *Cronobacter* infections in infants.

## 4. How much formula is needed to be in the can to be accepted for laboratory testing?

A minimum of 50 grams of formula is needed to perform the test, which is estimated at 100 ml. or 3 ½ ounces of powdered formula.

## 5. What are *Cronobacter sakazakii* and *Salmonella* and who can get sick?

*Cronobacter sakazakii* is found naturally in the environment and can live in dry foods, such as powdered infant formula. *Cronobacter* can cause diarrhea and urinary tract infections in people of all ages. Young infants ages 2 months or younger maybe more likely to develop sepsis or meningitis. The first symptom of *Cronobacter* infection is usually a fever, accompanied by poor feeding, crying, or low energy. Infants should be seen by a medical provider promptly if these signs should develop. Other infants more likely to get sick are those born prematurely and those who are immunocompromised.

*Salmonella* is a bacteria that can cause outbreaks of foodborne illness. *Salmonella* species can cause diarrhea in people of all ages. Infants under 3 months of age are more at risk of developing more serious infections including meningitis, bone and blood infections. As with *Cronobacter*, infants should be seen promptly if they develop fever, particularly if it is associated with low energy or increased lethargy.

## 6. What symptoms should I look for with my child?

Symptoms of infections caused by bacteria from the product could include changes in appetite, changes in mood (irritated or overly sleepy), fevers, rash, diarrhea, vomiting, yellow skin and whites of the eyes, grunting breaths and abnormal movements.

## 7. What do I do if my infant has become ill and has consumed this recalled formula?

If your child has consumed or potentially consumed the recalled formula and is experiencing symptoms that are different from usual, please call your pediatrician or health care provider. The first symptom of *Cronobacter* infection in infants include a fever, accompanied by poor feeding, crying, or low energy. Should these symptoms develop, the infant should be taken for prompt evaluation by a medical provider. Take your child to the emergency room if they are having difficulty breathing or having abnormal movements.

Parents and caregivers with a sick infant who has consumed a recalled product are encouraged to keep opened or unopened containers of recalled formula in the instance that the local health department would like to sample the product, but discontinue use of the product. Please contact your local health department to report if your infant has become ill.

## 8. What do I do if my infant has consumed this recalled formula and has not become ill?

Discontinue using any formula from the recalled lot numbers. Monitor your child for any illness for 1-2 weeks following your last use. See instructions below on returning or replacing your formula.

## 9. My infant is sick now and I don't know/remember if the formula she had was one of those that was on the recall. I don't have left over formula. What do I do?

To be safe, consider bringing your child to your health care provider for a check-up regardless of whether your child consumed the product or not. Your child's illness may not be related to the recalled formula.

## 10. Where do I return the recalled formula? Will I receive a replacement or will I get a refund?

For a refund or replacement, you can contact Abbott directly at [similacrecall.com](http://similacrecall.com) or by calling 1-800-986-8540. You can also return the recalled product to the store where it was purchased for a replacement. As mentioned above, if your child has been ill and you have leftover product from the recall, please reach out to your local health department before returning the product for potential product testing.

## 11. Will I get a call from anyone?

Your local health department may contact you for more information if your infant has visited a healthcare provider and you reported your infant consuming the recalled formula.

## 12. Where can I find more information?

- a. Contact your [local health department](#), or
- b. Visit the following for more information:
  - CDC's [Cronobacter Illnesses Linked to Powdered Infant Formula](#)
  - FDA's [News Release](#)
  - Abbott's recall notice [similacrecall.com](http://similacrecall.com)