

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK | HEALTH ADVISORY | January 25, 2022

## **Abbott Recalls Infant Formulas Concerning Infections with *Cronobacter sp.* and *Salmonella sp.***

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local partners are investigating four consumer complaints of infant illness related to products from Abbott Nutrition's Sturgis, MI, facility received from 9/6/2021 to 12/18/2021. All of the cases are reported to have consumed powdered infant formula (IF) produced from Abbott Nutrition's Sturgis, MI facility. These complaints include three reports of *Cronobacter sakazakii* infections and one report of *Salmonella* Newport infection in infants. All four cases related to these complaints were hospitalized and *Cronobacter* may have contributed to a death in one case.

Recalled powdered infant formula includes the brand names Similac, Alimentum, and EleCare:

- Product code: First two digits are 22 through 37, and the code on the container contains "K8," "SH," or "Z2"
- Expiration date: 4-1-2022 (APR 2022) or later.

Providers are asked to be aware of the recall and the illnesses be investigated as part of the recall. Providers who are seeing ill infants are encouraged to collect information on formula use and to test appropriately for *Cronobacter sakazakii* or *Salmonella* Newport infections. There have not been any cases of either infection in infants reported in North Dakota, to date.

*Cronobacter sakazakii* is an environmental bacteria that can cause illness in infants including sepsis and meningitis. Young infants, infants born prematurely or those that have other illnesses or receiving treatments such as chemotherapy for cancer are at increased risk for infection. Diagnosis is generally confirmed through blood cultures. *Salmonella* diagnosis can be made through either stool culture or non-culture methods.

Providers diagnosing either *Salmonella sp.* or *Cronobacter sakazakii*. in infants are asked to report those cases to the North Dakota Department of Health by calling 1-800-472-2180 or 701-328-2378.

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### **Categories of Health Alert Network messages:**

**Health Alert** Requires immediate action or attention; highest level of importance

**Health Advisory** May not require immediate action; provides important information for a specific incident or situation

**Health Update** Unlikely to require immediate action; provides updated information regarding an incident or situation

**HAN Info Service** Does not require immediate action; provides general public health information

##This message was distributed to state and local health officers, state and local epidemiologists, state and local laboratory directors, public information officers, HAN coordinators, and clinician organizations##