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For Medical Providers, Health Care Professionals

As a critical public health partner, Oregon WIC is sharing the following information impacting our shared patients.

FDA Announcement: [Abbott Voluntarily Recalls Similac Powder Formulas Manufactured at One Plant \(https://tinyurl.com/FDA-Abbott-Recall\)](https://tinyurl.com/FDA-Abbott-Recall)

On February 17, 2022, the formula manufacturer of Similac brand formulas, Abbott, initiated a proactive, voluntary recall of their powder formulas including:

- Similac Advance
- Similac Sensitive
- Similac Spit-Up
- Similac Total Comfort
- Alimentum
- EleCare Infant and EleCare Jr
- Similac PM 60/40 (added as of 2/28/22)

Why is the formula being recalled?

Abbott is voluntarily recalling these products after four consumer complaints related to *Cronobacter sakazakii* or *Salmonella* Newport Newport in infants who had consumed powder infant formula manufactured in the Sturgis, Michigan facility.

How do individuals know if they bought formula that is a part of the recall?

The following recall instructions have been provided to Oregon WIC participants:

The products under recall have a multidigit number on the bottom of the container. Affected products have the following lot number on the bottom of the product:

- The first two digits of the code on the can are 22 through 37, and
- A code on the container contains K8, SH, or Z2, and
- An expiration date of 04/01/2022 or later.



To find out if the product is included in this recall, visit the [Similac recall webpage \(https://www.similacrecall.com\)](https://www.similacrecall.com) and type in the code on the bottom of the package, or call 1-800-986-8540 and follow the instructions provided.

What is Oregon WIC doing to help families during this time?

Oregon WIC is contractually obligated to offer only Similac products as the standard infant formula. Waivers were granted by USDA, Food and Nutrition Service to:

- Allow WIC agencies to [temporarily issue non-contract formulas \(https://go.usa.gov/xzCCe\)](https://go.usa.gov/xzCCe), including store brands, to replace affected formulas.
- Allow WIC vendors to exchange recalled WIC formula for similar products, regardless of brand, and provide store credit or cash back. WIC participants are to be treated with the same respect as all other shoppers when returning recalled formulas.

How long are these waivers in effect?

The waivers are in place during this period of recall only. Oregon WIC must transition our participants back to the contract formula once the problem has been resolved. Please work with us to make this happen for our shared families. Requests for alternative standard non-contract formulas will not be honored, even with medical documentation. We are bound by contract and federal regulations to issue our contract formula. Our WIC staff are skilled in helping families make this change for their children.

What is the process for formulas that require medical documentation forms?

The Similac formulas affected by the recall that require the [Oregon WIC medical documentation form \(https://tinyurl.com/WIC-636\)](https://tinyurl.com/WIC-636) include Similac Spit Up, Alimentum, Similac PM 60/40, and EleCare Infant and EleCare Jr. Your local WIC agency may be reaching out to health care providers to receive a verbal order and/or requesting the completion of a new form for an [alternative formula \(https://go.usa.gov/xzCCe\)](https://go.usa.gov/xzCCe) during this time. For questions regarding WIC eligible formulas, medical documentation or prescribing formulas for WIC participants, contact your local WIC office or the state WIC office at 971-673-0040 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

What are families being told if their baby consumed formula affected by this recall?

Families with infants who consumed the recalled formula are being advised to contact their health care provider if they have any concerns about their baby's health. We are reassuring families that there is formula available and providing assistance as appropriate. We are advising to not make or feed home-made infant formula and to not dilute infant formula.

Thank you for your partnership and working together to keep Oregonians safe and healthy.

WIC is an equal opportunity program and employer.

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