



March 1, 2022

800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 865
Portland, OR 97232
Voice: 971-673-0040
FAX: 971-673-0071
TTY: 711

To: Health care partners

From: Tiare Sanna, MS, RDN
Section Manager, Nutrition & Health Screening (WIC) Program

As a critical public health partner, Oregon WIC is sharing the following information impacting our shared patients. 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 was added to the recall list February 28, 2022. The recalls are limited to specific lot numbers manufactured in one facility.

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

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.



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 temporarily issue non-contract formulas \(https://go.usa.gov/xzCCe\)](https://go.usa.gov/xzCCe), including store brands, to replace affected formulas. Oregon WIC vendors have been instructed to treat WIC shoppers the same as any shopper returning recalled formula. This can include exchanging recalled product for similar products, regardless of brand, or providing store credit or cash back. WIC participants are to be treated with the same respect as all other shoppers when returning recalled formulas.

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 standard non-contract alternative formulas will not be honored, even with medical documentation. Oregon WIC is 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.

The Similac special medical 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 clients, contact your local WIC office or the state WIC office at 971-673-0040 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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.

Sincerely,

Tiare S. Sanna MS, RDN

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Section Manager

Nutrition & Health Screening (WIC) Program

Center for Prevention & Health Promotion

Public Health Division



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