

# Cronobacter Illnesses Linked to Powdered Infant Formula

Abbott Nutrition has [recalled](#) powdered infant formula produced at its manufacturing facility in Sturgis, Michigan, because of possible *Cronobacter* contamination. Parents and caregivers of newborns should not feed their baby recalled Similac, Alimentum, or EleCare powdered infant formulas.

*Please contact the Maryland Department of Health Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau at (410) 767-6700, if a child has been diagnosed with Cronobacter infection and consumed recalled formula.*

## National Fast Facts

- Illnesses: 4
- Deaths: 2
- States: 3 (Minnesota, Ohio, Texas)
- Recall: Yes

## Recalled Powdered Infant Formula:

On February 28, 2022, Abbott Nutrition [recalled](#) one lot (Lot # 27032K80 (can) / Lot # 27032K800 (case)) of Similac PM 60/40 powdered formula manufactured in Sturgis, Michigan. This recall comes after a report of the death of an infant who tested positive for *Cronobacter sakazakii* and who consumed Similac PM 60/40 powdered formula from this lot.

The February 28 recall is in **addition** to other lots of Similac, Alimentum, and EleCare powdered formulas that were previously recalled on February 17, 2022.

Similac, Alimentum, or EleCare powdered formula products recalled on February 17 have [all three](#) of these conditions:

- First two digits of the code are 22 through 37, AND
- Container contains “K8,” “SH,” or “Z2,” AND
- Use-by date is 4-1-2022 (APR 2022) or later.



Products may include, but are not limited to:

- Similac powdered human milk fortifier
- Similac Advance and Similac Pro-Advance
- Similac Sensitive and Similac Pro-Sensitive
- Similac Total Comfort
- Similac for Spit Up
- Similac PM 60/40
- Similac Alimentum
- Elecare Infant
- Elecare Junior

To find out if the product you have is included in this recall, review product lot code on the bottom of the package. See the February 17 [recall notice](#) for more information.

**Symptoms:**

- The first symptom of *Cronobacter* infection in infants (0–1 year old) is usually a fever, accompanied by poor feeding, excessive crying, or very low energy. Some infants may also have seizures. Infants with these symptoms should be seen by a medical provider as soon as possible.
- *Cronobacter* germs can cause a dangerous blood infection (sepsis) or make the linings surrounding the brain and spinal cord swell (meningitis). Infections in infants usually occur in the first days or weeks of life. Infants 2 months of age and younger are most likely to develop meningitis if they are infected with *Cronobacter*.

### **What Healthcare Providers/Laboratories Should Do:**

- If a *Cronobacter* infection is diagnosed by a laboratory culture, CDC encourages clinicians and laboratories to inform their local or state health department.
- *Cronobacter* can be detected in the blood or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) of patients with meningitis or sepsis caused by these bacteria. *Cronobacter* bacteria grow on routine culture media and microbiological laboratories can detect *Cronobacter* from blood or CSF samples.
- CDC does not recommend testing infants for *Cronobacter* infection unless they have symptoms of meningitis or sepsis, even if they consumed recalled formula.
- CDC does not recommend testing stool for *Cronobacter*. *Cronobacter* infection does not typically cause diarrhea in infants.
- CDC does not recommend testing formula for *Cronobacter* contamination unless an infant has a diagnosed *Cronobacter* infection.

### **About *Cronobacter*:**

[\*Cronobacter sakazakii\*](#) is a germ found naturally in the environment and can live in very dry places. The germs can live in dry foods, such as powdered infant formula, powdered milk, herbal teas, and starches. *Cronobacter* infection is not reportable in most states, meaning doctors are not required to report cases to their health department. *Cronobacter* illnesses are rare, but when infections happen, they can be deadly for infants. CDC typically receives reports of 2 to 4 infections in infants per year, but the total number of cases that occur in the United States each year is not known.

### **How *Cronobacter* Bacteria Can Spread:**

- At a production factory, *Cronobacter* bacteria could get into formula powder if contaminated raw materials are used to make the formula or if the formula powder touches a contaminated surface in the manufacturing environment.
- Powdered infant formula could also become contaminated at home or elsewhere after the container is opened. For example, *Cronobacter* bacteria could get into the formula if formula lids or scoops are placed on contaminated surfaces and later touch the formula or if the formula is mixed with contaminated water or in a contaminated bottle. See more information on how to [safely prepare and store powdered infant formula](#).

**See Also:**

- [FDA Investigation of \*Cronobacter\* and \*Salmonella\* Complaints: Powdered Infant Formula \(February 2022\)](#)
- [Abbott Recall Notice: US/Puerto Rico](#)
- [La FDA advierte a los consumidores que no usen ciertas fórmulas infantiles en polvo producidas de las instalaciones de Abbott Nutrition en Sturgis, Michigan](#)
- [Cronobacter Infection and Infants](#)
- [La infección por \*Cronobacter\* y los bebés](#)