COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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Cronobacter sakazakii Infections Linked to Powdered Infant Formula

The CDC and FDA are investigating *Cronobacter sakazakii* infections associated with powdered infant formula. Cronobacter bacteria can cause severe blood infections (sepsis) or meningitis. *Cronobacter sakazakii* infections in infants may present the following symptoms in those who have been fed tainted formula:

- Fever
- Poor feeding
- Crying
- Very low energy
- Seizures (less typical)

Please report any laboratory-confirmed cases of *Cronobacter sakazakii* infection in infants (<12 months old) occurring between November 2020 and present date to Marisa Donnelly (marisa.donnelly@cdph.ca.gov) and Hilary Rosen (hilary.rosen@cdph.ca.gov) at the Infectious Diseases Branch of CDPH.

Below is a message with more detail from the California Department of Public Health:

Multistate Investigation of *Cronobacter sakazakii* Infections Associated with Powdered Infant Formula

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are investigating *Cronobacter sakazakii* cases in multiple states potentially linked to powdered infant formula (PIF) from a manufacturing facility in Sturgis, Michigan. No California patients have been identified to date. FDA issued a consumer advisory (https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-warns-consumers-not-use-certain-powdered-infant-formula-produced-abbott-nutritions-facility). Abbott Nutrition, the PIF manufacturer, issued a voluntary recall of Similac and EleCare manufactured at that facility (https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/abbott-voluntarily-recalls-powder-formulas-manufactured-at-one-plant-301485329.html).

As of February 17, 2022, FDA is investigating four consumer complaints of *Cronobacter sakazakii* and *Salmonella* from three states linked to the consumption of PIF, with estimated onset dates ranging from November 2020 to present date. FDA conducted a traceback investigation, which led to a single manufacturing facility in Sturgis, Michigan. Environmental samples were positive for *C. sakazakii* leading Abbott Nutrition to issue a large-scale recall involving multiple

brands dating back to 2020 production dates. Although no cases have been reported in California, product from this facility is distributed nationally.

CDPH is working with CDC and FDA to identify any potential associated cases in California. *C. sakazakii* is not reportable in California. Please report any infants (<12 months old) with laboratory-confirmed *Cronobacter sakazakii* infection between November 2020 and present date to Marisa Donnelly (marisa.donnelly@cdph.ca.gov) and Hilary Rosen (hilary.rosen@cdph.ca.gov) at the Infectious Diseases Branch (510-620-3434). Note that bacterial meningitis, which is a common presentation of *C. sakazakii* infection, is reportable per Title 17, Section 2500. CDC has issued a call for cases through various channels including Epi-X and EIN. Please notify CDPH first if you have any potentially linked cases.

Cronobacter sakazakii infections are extremely rare. Infections in infants can cause sepsis, meningitis, and death. Infants under 2 months and those born prematurely or with immunocompromising conditions are at greatest risk for meningitis from *Cronobacter* infection. Powdered formula is not a sterile product and previous outbreaks of *Cronobacter sakazakii* have been linked to PIF.

For updates and more information on *Cronobacter sakazakii*, see:
www.cdc.gov/cronobacter/infection-and-infants.html