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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To: Health Care Providers
From: Dr. Isaac Benowitz, State Epidemiologist
Subject: **Infant Botulism Outbreak Linked to Powdered Infant Formula**
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U.S. CDC Issues Notice of Infant Botulism Outbreak Linked to Powdered Infant Formula

Summary

On June 13, 2026, Nara Organics issued [a voluntary recall](#) of all Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula products due to potential contamination with *Clostridium botulinum* toxin, which causes infant botulism. Subsequently, the [U.S. FDA](#) and the [U.S. CDC](#) issued their own notices about the recall.

This Nara Organics' recall includes all lot numbers and both sizes of cans. The products are available at some major big box and online retailers nationwide, including Target and Target.com. Health care providers should advise patients and their families and caregivers that no one should consume any Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula products.

As of June 13, 2026, a total of three infants with infant botulism have been reported in this outbreak from three states: California, Pennsylvania, and Washington. They ranged in age from 2–5 months when their illness began. All three consumed Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula. There are no reports of affected infants in Maine. As of June 15, the Maine CDC is not investigating any suspected infant botulism cases in Maine.

All three patients were hospitalized and treated with BabyBIG®, the FDA-approved treatment for infant botulism. No deaths have been reported.

Providers should not wait for laboratory confirmation to initiate case management. If clinical consultation supports infant botulism, begin immediate treatment with BabyBIG® (Botulism Immune Globulin Intravenous).

Testing of infant formula associated with suspected cases in Maine may be performed by Federal partners as appropriate and in consultation with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC). The Maine CDC's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) does not conduct tests for botulism. Suspect specimens should be sent directly to the U.S. CDC after consultation with U.S. CDC and/or the Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program (IBTPP) at the California Department of Public Health (if infant botulism is suspected).

Maine health care providers should immediately report suspected cases of botulism to the Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821. For clinical questions about suspected infant botulism cases and release of BabyBIG® please contact the [Infant Botulism Treatment & Prevention Program \(IBTPP\)](#) at 510-231-7600.

About Infant Botulism:

- Infant botulism occurs when an infant ingests spores from *Clostridium botulinum* bacteria, which then grows in the large intestine and produces toxin that blocks the neuromuscular junction by inhibiting the release of acetylcholine.
- Infant botulism often starts with constipation but is usually first noticed as difficulty feeding (sucking and swallowing), a weak and altered cry, and lack of head control.
- If untreated, infants with infant botulism experience a progressive, flaccid paralysis that can lead to breathing difficulties and require weeks of hospitalization.
- Treatment with BabyBIG® is recommended for all suspected cases of infant botulism.

What Clinicians Should Do:

- Initial diagnosis of infant botulism is based on [clinical symptoms](#).
- If untreated, infants with infant botulism experience a progressive, flaccid paralysis that can lead to breathing difficulties, including respiratory failure, and may require weeks of hospitalization.
- Consultation is available for suspected cases. If you suspect your infant patient has botulism, immediately call the Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program (510-231-7600) for case consultation. Consultation is available 24/7.
- Treatment with BabyBIG® is recommended for all suspected cases of infant botulism.
- If clinical consultation supports infant botulism, begin treatment as soon as possible.
- Do not wait for laboratory confirmation.
- Infant botulism is a notifiable disease. All suspected cases must be reported to Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.
- More information is available on the [Clinical Overview of Infant Botulism](#) webpage.

What Parents and Caregivers Should Do:

- Parents and caregivers are urged to immediately stop using any Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula.
- If you have unopened cans of Nara Organics infant formula, throw them away or return them.
- If you have leftover (opened) cans of Nara Organics infant formula,
 - Take a picture and record the lot number and use-by date.
 - Consider retaining any opened formula. If your infant develops signs and symptoms of infant botulism, public health authorities may want to test it.
 - Label the container "DO NOT USE" and keep it stored in a safe place away from other items you feed your baby for at least a month.
 - If no symptoms appear after a month, throw the leftover formula away.
- [Wash items and surfaces](#) that may have touched the recalled formula using hot soapy water or a dishwasher.
- Seek **immediate health care** if your infant consumed Nara Organics brand infant formula **and has any of these symptoms:**
 - Constipation
 - Poor feeding

- Ptosis (drooping eyelid)
- Sluggish pupils
- Flattened facial expression
- Diminished suck and gag reflexes
- Weak and altered cry
- Respiratory difficulty and possibly respiratory arrest
- Symptoms of infant botulism can take several weeks to appear. Parents of children who consumed Nara Organics brand infant formula should watch their infant for symptoms for a month after the infant last consumed the product.
- To report a complaint or adverse event (illness or serious allergic reaction) related to infant formula, visit [FDA's Safety Reporting Portal](#). If your child has signs or symptoms of infant botulism, seek medical attention before using the portal.

Reporting and Consultation

Please report suspected cases immediately to the Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821. For clinical questions about suspected infant botulism cases and release of BabyBIG® please contact the [Infant Botulism Treatment & Prevention Program \(IBTPP\)](#) at 510-231-7600.

Resources

- [FDA: Outbreak Investigation of Infant Botulism: Powdered Infant Formula \(June 2026\)](#)
- [CDC: Infant Botulism Outbreak Linked to Powdered Infant Formula, June 2026](#)
- [Nara: Voluntary Recall of all Nara Organics Infant Formula](#)
- [How to Clean, Sanitize, and Store Infant Feeding Items Frequently Asked Questions](#)