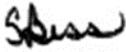


Memorandum

To: WIC Community Partners and Healthcare Community

From: Stephanie Bess, M. S., R.D., LDN 
Chief, Bureau of Family Nutrition

Subject: Abbott Formula Recall – WIC Impact

Date: February 23, 2022

On February 17, 2022, Abbott announced a proactive, voluntary recall of powder formulas including Similac, Alimentum and EleCare manufactured in Sturgis, Michigan, one of the company's manufacturing facilities. The Illinois WIC program is affected by the two exempt formulas included in the recall, Alimentum powder and EleCare powder Infant and Jr formulas and includes approximately 1,000 participants who have been prescribed these products. Current guidance for those prescribed these products is for local WIC agency staff or the participant to contact their healthcare provider and discuss options for prescribing an acceptable substitute as shortages of the impacted formulas are expected.

For more on the recall go to [IDHS: Abbott Formula Recall \(state.il.us\)](https://www.idhs.gov/abbott-formula-recall)

Your assistance in sharing Key Messages to Illinois families are as follows:

- ❖ Do not use the recalled products
- ❖ FDA advises consumers to use all products not included in the recall
- ❖ Parents and caregivers should never dilute infant formula and should not make or feed homemade infant formula to infants. Consumers should also avoid purchasing imported formula through online sales, as it has the potential to be counterfeit
- ❖ Recalled product can be exchanged by taking unopened cans to:
 - the store where they were purchased,
 - the manufacturer or,
 - the WIC Office, if purchased with WIC benefits