

Health Alert Network

ADVISORY

June 18, 2026

Infant Botulism Linked to Powdered Infant Formula

Background

A multistate outbreak of infant botulism has been identified in the United States. As of June 13, 2026, a total of three infants, ranging in age from 2–5 months, with infant botulism have been reported in this outbreak from three states: California, Pennsylvania, and Washington. All three consumed Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula and were hospitalized and treated with BabyBIG® (Botulism Immune Globulin Intravenous medication). No deaths have been reported. No cases have been reported in Nebraska. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Botulism Surveillance System records approximately 150–180 infant botulism cases each year.

Data from the [Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program \(IBTPP\)](#) have demonstrated a concerning association between consumption of Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula and infant botulism. Among 86 U.S. infant botulism cases treated with BabyBIG® through June 13, 2026, 44 (51%) had any powdered infant formula exposure. Notably, 3 (7%) consumed Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula, making this product disproportionately represented among sick infants in this outbreak, given the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) data that Nara Organics represents an estimated <1% of all infant formula sales in the United States. Investigations are ongoing but have not identified any other infant formula brands or shared exposures that pose a risk to infants at this time.

CDC and FDA recommend that parents and caregivers immediately stop use of all Nara Organics infant formulas. On June 13, 2026, Nara Organics voluntarily recalled all Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula products, including all lot numbers and both can sizes. These products were available for purchase online and at some Target retail stores nationwide. Testing of opened cans of Nara Organics brand formula and unopened Nara Organics product samples is underway, with results expected in the coming weeks.

What is Infant Botulism?

Infant botulism occurs when an infant ingests spores from the bacteria *Clostridium botulinum*, which then grows in the large intestine and produces a toxin that blocks the neuromuscular junction by inhibiting the release of acetylcholine. Initial signs and symptoms often include constipation, difficulty feeding (difficulty sucking or swallowing), loss of head control, weak facial expression, and reduced muscle tone. Without prompt recognition and treatment, descending paralysis may progress and involve the respiratory muscles, potentially leading to life-threatening respiratory failure. Symptom presentation can be up to 30 days from ingestion.

Recommendations for Clinicians & Public Health Partners

Consider infant botulism a clinical diagnosis in any infant presenting with unexplained weakness, poor feeding, decreased head control, or difficulty swallowing — especially if the infant has consumed Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula. Early recognition and treatment are critical.

Immediate actions when suspecting a case:

- Arrange consultation with the [Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program \(IBTPP\)](#) at 510-231-7600 for evaluation and treatment guidance. Consultation is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- If clinical consultation supports infant botulism, begin treatment with BabyBIG® without delay. **Do not wait** for laboratory confirmation to initiate case management.
- Treatment with BabyBIG® is recommended for all suspected cases of infant botulism.
- Infant botulism is a notifiable disease. **Report all suspected cases immediately to DHHS at 402-471-2937 or to your [local health department](#).**

Guidance for parents/caregivers:

- **Do not use 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,
 - If possible, take a picture or record the lot number and best by date.
 - If you have leftover Nara Organics infant formula, label it "**DO NOT USE**" and keep it stored in a safe place for at least a month.
 - If your infant develops symptoms of infant botulism, DHHS may want to collect it for testing. If no symptoms appear after a month, throw away the leftover formula.
- Monitor for symptoms of botulism, such as poor feeding, loss of head control, difficulty swallowing, or decreased facial expression. Seek medical care **immediately** if symptoms appear.
- Wash items and surfaces that may have touched the formula using hot soapy water or a dishwasher.

Institutions, hospitals, clinical labs, and public health partners:

- Do **not** use or distribute any of the recalled Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula. Remove it from inventory and inform relevant staff.
- Clean and [sanitize](#) feeding areas and equipment that may have been exposed.
- Ensure clinical labs and pathology services are aware that infant botulism is a reportable condition and laboratory confirmation is critical for case investigation; ensure timely specimen collection and consultation with DHHS or local health departments for guidance.
- Participate in trace-back, leftover product collection, and laboratory testing as requested by state health departments, CDC, and the FDA.

Why this Matters & Next Steps

CDC and FDA, along with state and local health departments, are working to determine the contamination source and to issue further guidance as information becomes available. DHHS has been working with the Department of Agriculture and local health departments to conduct recall audits and remove any remaining product from shelves at stores. For clinicians and health-care systems, preparedness means:

- Recognizing the signs and symptoms of infant botulism promptly.
- Having protocols in place for consultation and treatment.
- Ensuring awareness of case notification procedures.
- Providing caregivers with clear instructions when feeding concerns arise.

Resources

- [CDC Infant Botulism Outbreak Linked to Powdered Infant Formula, June 2026](#)
- [FDA Outbreak Investigation of Infant Botulism: Powdered Infant Formula \(Jun 2026\)](#)
- [Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program](#)

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