

Sent: 11.24.2025



Subject Line: ByHeart Infant Formula Infant Botulism Outbreak

Child Care Licensing Program is sharing the following information about concerning ByHeart infant formula infant botulism outbreak

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is working with other state health departments, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate a multistate outbreak of infant botulism linked to **ByHeart Whole Nutrition Infant Formula**. CDPH is working closely with these groups to identify and track cases of infant botulism.

Important note: No other formula brands are currently implicated in the outbreak. Formula remains a safe food for infants.

What is infant botulism?

Infant botulism is a form of botulism which results when an infant swallows or inhales spores (tiny cells) of a bacterium called *Clostridium botulinum* and the bacteria multiplies, creating a toxin. The symptoms include:

- Poor feeding (sucking and swallowing)
- A weak cry
- Decreased facial expression
- Loss of head control
- Overall muscle weakness
- Often with constipation

What should parents know? What should they do?

- Stop using ByHeart Whole Nutrition Infant Formula immediately.
- If your baby has symptoms or you're concerned about their health, contact your baby's doctor immediately.
- If you notice symptoms after your baby has consumed ByHeart formula, take a picture of the information on the package. This includes brand and lot number if still available.
- For more information about what to do with leftover formula go [here](#)
- Symptoms of infant botulism can develop very quickly or may take up to 30 days to appear. You should remain alert if your baby had infant formula from ByHeart.

- If your baby seems healthy and shows no signs of being sick, there is no medical reason to test or treat them. This is true even if they drank the recalled formula. However, it's still important to watch your baby closely for 30 days after the baby has consumed the ByHeart formula. If you notice anything unusual, contact your doctor right away.
- Contact the **confidential toll-free Infant Botulism Outbreak Hotline** at 1-(833) 398-2022 (open 7 days a week from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Pacific Time) if you have questions about infant botulism

CDPH Resources for more Information:

- [CDPH Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program California Launches Public Hotline to Help Answer Questions on Infant Botulism](#)
- [Infant Botulism Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Statement from CDPH Director Dr. Erica Pan on Infant Botulism Investigation Update](#)
- Materials in Spanish: If your programs would like Spanish materials including WhatsApp resources, let us know by contacting: MHCCGOHE@cdph.ca.gov

In Partnership,
Child Care Licensing Program

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