



**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20220601-00576-ALT (Health Alert)
RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, PAs, and
Healthcare Providers – Statewide
Wednesday, June 1, 2022
SUBJECT: Infant Formula Shortage and the Mississippi State
Department of Health Response

Dear Colleagues,

- In February 2022, Abbott initiated a voluntary recall of powder formulas including Similac, Alimentum, Elecare, and Similac PM 60/40 manufactured in Sturgis Michigan.
- This recall has caused a domino effect leading to the nationwide shortage of formulas manufactured by other infant formula companies. This includes standard formulas issued by the Mississippi WIC Program, such as Enfamil Infant, Enfamil Gentlease, Enfamil A.R., and Enfamil ProSobee.

What the MSDH WIC Program is Doing?

The MSDH WIC Program has taken the following actions to help ensure WIC participants are able to receive their supplemental WIC benefits.

- **Update the Approved Product List:** The WIC Program has added additional infant formula products and sizes to the Approved Product List. This will improve access to standard and medical formulas by allowing WIC participants to select from a greater variety of formulas while shopping at authorized vendor locations. These products will be available from May 31 to August 31, 2022. A list of standard formula product and sizes that have been added can be found in Appendix A. Gerber Good Start Extensive HA has been permanently added to the medical formulary.
- **Expedite the Process for Medical Formula Approval:**
 - The USDA Food and Nutrition Services has granted the WIC Program a waiver from the medical documentation required to change a WIC participant's prescribed medical formula. This will allow WIC participants who are unable to find their prescribed medical formula in store locations to contact the clinic to quickly change to an alternative formula that is currently available.
 - We are updating the WIC Program Infant Formula Request form to ensure medical providers can add additional formula options. This will take some time as it requires agency approval
- **Communicate with Authorized Vendors:** The USDA Food and Nutrition Services has granted the WIC Program a waiver to allow WIC participants to return recalled products



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

directly to the location of purchase in exchange for cash back, store credit, or a similar product. This will help WIC families have access to the funds they need quickly to purchase available infant formula.

What are we asking WIC Participants to do?

- WIC participants should continue to redeem their WIC benefits at authorized vendors. If a WIC participant is unable to find a standard or medical formula, they should report this to the WIC Program.
- When a WIC participant cannot find a standard formula and the issue is reported to the WIC Program, MSDH will work with the participant to determine if there is an available formula for them to purchase. Benefits for standard formula can be changed electronically without the participant visiting the WIC clinic. If no standard formula is available, the participant is advised to try multiple store locations. We contact the vendor and manufacturer to determine the degree of the shortage.
- When a WIC participant cannot find a medical formula and the issue is reported to the WIC Program, we work with the participant and provider to determine an alternative. This may include contacting the provider via phone. We also contact the vendor to determine the degree of the shortage and available alternatives.

If an individual is not a WIC participant and interested in applying for WIC, please visit www.healthmys.com or contact the WIC Call Center at 1-800-338-6747 to schedule an appointment.

What are we asking providers to do?

- Complete the WIC Program Infant Formula Request for WIC participants who need medical formula. Please add alternative medical formulas under the “Other” section to allow WIC participants to be able to receive multiple formulas in case of shortages. WIC Program Infant Formula Request forms can be found on the MSDH WIC web page [here](#).
- Refer WIC participants back to the WIC Program if they are unable to find standard or medical formulas. WIC participants can reach us by calling the WIC Call Center at 1-800-388-6747 -or- complete a participant complaint form. The participant complaint form can be found [here](#). Participants can complete the form online, save or screenshot, and email it to vmu@msdh.ms.gov.
- Please note that the WIC Program does not have a reserve of infant formula. We purchase all formula from manufacturers based on availability. A nationwide manufacturer shortage means we are also experiencing shortages with ordering capabilities for medical formula in counties where direct shipment of medical formula is needed.

WIC provides nutritious foods and nutrition education to WIC participants. If an individual is not currently a WIC participant and is interested in applying for WIC, they can visit www.healthmys.com or contact the WIC Call Center at 1-800-338-6747 to schedule an appointment.

These are unprecedented times. We are working diligently and using all resources available to ensure WIC families have access to nutritious foods.



APPENDIX A

Standard Formulas Added to the Approved Product List

Description	Brand	Common Name	UPC	Configuration	Package Ounces	Recon Oz
ENFAMIL AR PWD 15.2OZ(4X2BIB) US	A.R.	Enfamil AR Refill Box	300875100967	2 refill bags	30.4	214
ENF NEUROPRO GE NGMO PWD15.2OZ(4X2BIB)US	Neuropro Gentlease	Enfamil NeuroPro Gentlease Refill Box	300875121238	2 refill bags	30.4	220
ENF NEUROPRO GE NGMO PWD 27.4OZ(4CAN) US	Neuropro Gentlease	Enfamil NeuroPro Gentlease Value Can	300875121214	1 can	27.4	198
ENFAMIL GE PWD 27.7OZ(4CAN)US	Gentlease	Enfamil Gentlease Value Can	300875121252	1 can	27.7	198
ENF NEUROPRO INF NGMOPWD15.7OZ(4X2BIB)US	Neuropro Infant	Enfamil NeuroPro Infant Refill Box	300875121115	2 refill bags	31.4	225
ENF NEUROPRO INFANT PWD 28.3OZ(4CAN) US	Neuropro Infant	Enfamil NeuroPro Infant Value Can	300875121092	1 can	28.3	202
ENFAMIL INFANT PWD 29.4 OZ (4 CAN) US	Infant	Enfamil Infant Value Can	300875121276	1 can	29.4	210
ENFAMIL PROSOBEE PWD 20.9OZ(4CAN) US	ProSobee (Simply Plant- based)	Enfamil Prosobee	300871214422	1 can	20.9	151



Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: **MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)**
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20220601-00576-**ALT**
Program (HAN) Type: **Health Alert**
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00576
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert, ADV=Health Advisory, UPD=Health Update, MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).
Program (HAN) Type: Categories of Health Alert Messages.
Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
Status (Type):
 Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
 Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
 Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
Message Type:
 Alert: Indicates an original Alert
 Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
 Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
 Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted



Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration:

Undetermined.

Urgency:

Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time:

Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).