



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: June 18, 2026

From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory: Outbreak of Infant Botulism Linked to Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula

Key Messages

- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued a [health advisory](#) regarding a multistate outbreak of infant botulism associated with Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula that is being investigated by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [U.S Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#). The manufacturer has issued a [voluntary recall](#). Parents should discontinue use of the product.
- As of June 15, 2026, three (3) infants with laboratory-confirmed infant botulism have been identified with exposure to Nara Organics powdered infant formula: One (1) each in California, Pennsylvania, and Washington.
- Illness onset dates range from late April to May 31, 2026. All infants were hospitalized and received [BabyBIG](#). There were no deaths.
- Clinicians and public health professionals should call the CDPH [Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program](#) (IBTPP) directly for consultation for suspected infant botulism cases at 510-231-7600 (available 24/7).
- Health care providers should also immediately report suspected cases of infant botulism to [County Epidemiology Unit](#) using the contact information below.

Situation

A multistate outbreak of infant botulism has been epidemiologically linked to Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula. Testing of the open can of Nara Organic powdered infant formula consumed by the CA case is ongoing at the CDPH Center for Laboratory Sciences Microbial Diseases Laboratory.

Actions Requested

1. **Review** the accompanying [CDPH health alert](#) for additional information and recommendations.
2. **Maintain** a high index of suspicion for infant botulism and ask parents about the use of Nara Organics infant formula in any suspected cases.
3. **Consult** the [CDPH Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program](#) (IBTPP) if infant botulism is suspected by calling 510-231-7600. Consultation is available 24/7.
4. **Report** cases of suspected infant botulism to the County Epidemiology Unit by calling 619-692-8499 (Monday-Friday 8 AM-5 PM) or 858-565-5255 (after hours and holidays).

Thank you for your participation.

CAHAN San Diego

County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency

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Public Website: <http://sandiegocounty.gov/cahan>

Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch

Urgent Phone for pm/weekends/holidays: (858) 565-5255

Secure Website: <http://cahan.ca.gov>



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Gavin Newsom
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Health Advisory

TO: Healthcare Providers

Outbreak of Infant Botulism Linked to Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula

6/17/2026

Key Messages

- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other state health departments are investigating a multi-state outbreak of infant botulism linked to powdered infant formula.
- Three infants with laboratory confirmed infant botulism have been identified who had exposure to the same brand of powdered infant formula **including one (1) in California**, one (1) in Pennsylvania and one (1) in Washington. As of June 15, 2026, all three cases have been confirmed and there are no additional suspected cases presently.
- Illness onset dates range from late April to May 31, 2026. All infants were hospitalized and received BabyBIG[®]. No deaths have been reported. Infants ranged in age from 86 to 153 days. All three were fed Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula powdered.
- Testing of the open can of Nara Organics powdered infant formula fed to the California patient is ongoing at the California Department of Public Health Center for Laboratory Sciences Microbial Diseases Laboratory (CDPH CLS MDL).
- On June 13, 2026, Nara Organics issued a voluntary recall of all lots of its powdered infant formula nationwide. FDA is working to ensure all potentially impacted products are removed from the market. FDA's investigation is ongoing.
- Parents should discontinue use of Nara Organics formula immediately.
- Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula powdered was available online and at Target retailers nationwide. FDA reports that Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula makes up less than 1% of all infant formula sales in the United States. This recall will not create shortage concerns of infant formula for parents and caregivers.
- Clinicians and public health professionals should call the CDPH Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program (IBTPP) directly for consultation for suspected infant botulism cases at **510-231-7600 (available 24/7)**.

- Health care providers should report suspected cases of infant botulism to their local health department immediately, to facilitate investigation, testing and timely treatment with BabyBIG[®] if indicated.

Background

Infant botulism is caused by colonization with *Clostridium botulinum* spores, which germinate and produce botulinum neurotoxin in the intestine. The immature gut microbiota and immune system and reduced bile acid levels in infants create a permissive environment for spore germination and toxin production. Infant botulism occurs when swallowed spores of *Clostridium botulinum* or related botulinum-neurotoxin-producing species temporarily colonize a baby's large intestine and produce toxin. The toxin is then absorbed and carried in the baby's bloodstream to the neuromuscular junction where it cleaves key intracellular proteins needed for the release of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine. Signs of infant botulism include poor or decreased head control, poor feeding (weak suck, difficulty swallowing), hypotonia (floppy baby syndrome), weak or altered cry, decreased facial expression, ptosis, progressive, symmetric, descending flaccid paralysis and respiratory failure in severe cases. Constipation is often the earliest sign of infant botulism; however, constipation by itself is not diagnostic. Infant botulism primarily affects infants under six months of age. Botulism, including infant botulism, is a nationally notifiable disease in the U.S. Infant botulism is usually sporadic, and for most cases, a source is not identified.

Diagnosis is based on clinical history and physical exam along with testing for botulinum neurotoxin in stool. Confirmatory testing includes detection of botulinum neurotoxin in stool or isolation of *C. botulinum* or neurotoxicogenic *C. baratii* or *C. butyricum* from stool. This testing can be done at the CDPH laboratory.

Treatment should not be delayed while awaiting laboratory confirmation.

BabyBIG[®] (Human Botulism Immune Globulin Intravenous) is the treatment of choice and should be administered as soon as infant botulism is suspected. BabyBIG[®] is only available through the CDPH IBTPP. BabyBIG[®] does not reverse existing paralysis; it neutralizes ongoing toxemia and stops the progression of the disease, allowing healing to begin. Meticulous supportive care is a mainstay of treatment; respiratory and nutritional support is often required. Hospitalization is typically prolonged (weeks), but prognosis is excellent with timely treatment.

Providers caring for a patient with suspected infant botulism should notify their local health department and immediately reach out to the Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program (IBTPP) for medical consultation: Call 510-231-7600 (available 24/7).

Recommendations

- Maintain a high index suspicion for infant botulism and ask parents about the use of Nara Organics infant formula in any suspected cases
 - Parents of children with suspected infant botulism are encouraged to retain opened containers and save lot numbers and expiration dates of any infant formula consumed by the child and report to their local health department.
- If infant botulism is suspected, consult with experts at the CDPH Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program **immediately at 510-231-7600. Consultation is available 24/7.**
- If clinical consultation supports a diagnosis of infant botulism, begin treatment with BabyBIG[®] as soon as possible. Do not wait for laboratory confirmation.

- Infant botulism is a notifiable disease. All suspected cases must be reported immediately by telephone to the local health department of the patient's residence.

Resources

- CDPH Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program
- Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program | California Department of Public Health
- FDA recall: NARA ORGANICS RECALLS ALL LOTS OF NARA INFANT FORMULA BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE HEALTH RISK | FDA
- Outbreak Investigation of Infant Botulism: Powdered Infant Formula (June 2026) | FDA
- CDC Outbreak Update: Infant Botulism Linked to Powdered Infant Formula | CDC Newsroom
- CDC Clinical Overview of Infant Botulism

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