



Catch the Wave!
Urgent Communication
November 2025

Formula-associated Infant Botulism

Since August, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has received reports of **15 cases of infant botulism** linked to **ByHeart brand infant formula** across 12 states: Arizona, California, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, and Washington. **No cases have been reported in Connecticut to date.**

In response, the **FDA has issued a recall** of all ByHeart infant formula products, including all lot numbers and all container types (both canisters and pouches).



Infants should not be fed this recalled formula. If you still have ByHeart product, please do the following:

- take a photo or record the information on the bottom of the package (see picture)
- keep the container in a safe place and be sure to label that product **"DO NOT USE"**
- if your child develops symptoms of botulism, the product might be needed for testing - so please keep it. If your child does not develop symptoms after 30 days, throw away the containers.

What is Botulism?

Infant botulism is caused by a bacteria called clostridium botulinum (c. botulinum) which makes spores that live in soil and dust. If a baby swallows these spores, a toxin can be produced that affects nerves. Infants can also get botulism from ingesting contaminated honey, raw milk and homemade baby formula.

Symptoms of infant botulism can start slowly and get worse over time. Watch for:

- Constipation (**this BY ITSELF is NOT a symptom of botulism**)
- Weak sucking or feeding
- Droopy eyelids
- A weak sounding cry
- Trouble swallowing
- Loss of head control
- Floppy arms and legs (rag doll baby)

If your baby develops any of these symptoms after ingesting the recalled formula, seek medical attention immediately. Infant botulism can lead to serious and life threatening breathing problems. With early detection and treatment, most babies fully recover.

Contact Us:

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