



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY Public Health Division

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH URGES PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS TO STOP USING RECALLED INFANT FORMULA LINKED TO INFANT BOTULISM

Santa Cruz County Public Health is urging parents and caregivers to stop using recalled lots of ByHeart Whole Nutrition Infant Formula following reports of infant botulism linked to specific batches of the product. Recalled lots have been traced to nearly 400 stores across 37 California counties. Local health officials are closely monitoring the situation as the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other state agencies investigate a [multistate outbreak](#).

Important Voluntary Recall Information

The voluntary recall applies to the following two batches of [ByHeart Whole Nutrition Infant Formula](#):

- Lot 206VABP/Batch: 251261P2, Use by: 01 Dec 2026
- Lot: 206VABP/Batch: 251131P2, Use by: 01 Dec 2026
 - The batch code can be found on the bottom of the can.
- Universal Product Code (UPC): 85004496800.
 - The UPC code can be found below the product's bar code.

Santa Cruz County Environmental Health investigators determined on November 10, 2025, that recalled formula was found in Santa Cruz County Target and Whole Foods locations. According to the [FDA](#), ByHeart Whole Nutrition Infant Formula is sold online and at major retailers nationwide.

"County Environmental Health investigations indicated that the recalled product was sold in the community, therefore we are urging families to check their pantries to confirm they do not have this potentially contaminated product," said Dr. Lisa Hernandez, Santa Cruz County Public Health Officer.

As of November 11, 2025, no cases have been reported in Santa Cruz County.

“Infant botulism is a very rare but serious illness that can cause muscle weakness and breathing difficulties,” said Dr. Lisa Hernandez. “If not treated quickly, botulism can be fatal. Caregivers should contact their healthcare provider if their baby shows any symptoms.”

What Parents and Caregivers Should Do:

- Stop using recalled ByHeart Whole Nutrition Infant Formula immediately.
- Wash items and surfaces that may have touched the recalled formula using hot soapy water or a dishwasher.
- Contact your child’s healthcare provider if your infant shows any symptoms of illness.
- Symptoms of infant botulism can take several weeks to develop, so remain vigilant if any recalled infant formula was consumed.
- If parents or caregivers note symptoms after an infant has consumed formula:
 - Keep the formula packaging and record the brand name and lot number for reporting purposes.
 - Do not discard the product until you are contacted by Public Health.

Signs of infant botulism may include:

- Constipation
- Difficulty feeding (sucking or swallowing)
- Poor head control
- Weak or altered cry
- Diminished facial expression
- Generalized muscle weakness

Guidance for Healthcare Providers

- Initial diagnosis of infant botulism is based on clinical symptoms.
- Consultation with the Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program is available for suspected cases. If you suspect your infant patient has botulism, immediately call 510-231-7600 for case consultation. Consultation is available **24/7**.
- If clinical consultation supports infant botulism, begin treatment as soon as possible. Do not wait for laboratory confirmation.
- Infant botulism is a notifiable disease. All suspected cases must be reported to CDPH directly.

More Information

For the latest updates on the investigation, visit:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) | California Department of Public Health | Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program

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