

NATIONAL INFANT FORMULA SHORTAGE & HOW TO KEEP INFANTS SAFE

Recent infant formula recall and supply chain issues have impacted the availability of all infant formula. Many families are stressed and facing difficulties when feeding their babies.

If you are having a hard time finding formula for your baby, here are some helpful tips!

- ✓ Call your OBGYN or the infant's health care provider to see if they have in office samples or can recommend a similar formula that may be more readily available that is nutritionally similar
- ✓ Switch to another brand or type of formula that is available, if recommended by the infant's health care provider
- ✓ Visit smaller stores and drugstores that carry formula. You can call first to see if they have formula in stock
- ✓ Look online for options available but be sure to only order from well-recognized distributors and pharmacies. Don't buy formula online from people you don't know on social media sites, online auctions, or overseas
- ✓ Check the lot code on the formula that you already have to make sure it was not recalled. Don't throw away formula that wasn't part of the recall, unless it is expired
- ✓ Be sure to follow the formula manufacturer's preparation and storage instructions. Do not use toddler formula to feed infants, water down formula, or try to make infant formula at home. Do not feed an infant cow's milk before 12 months of age
- ✓ Families feeding a baby with human milk from a source other than the baby's mother should only use milk from a source that has screened its milk donors and taken other precautions to ensure the safety of its milk
- ✓ Pregnant women and families are encouraged to consult with a provider about breastfeeding their infant. Breastfeeding support is available at the SCDHS WIC program.

WIC staff can help you locate formula in your community. WIC is an excellent resource for families.

- WIC has qualified nutrition staff that can offer helpful advice on keeping your family healthy
- WIC can help connect you with other resources and services in the community including healthcare, counseling, additional food assistance, and more
- WIC offers breastfeeding peer counselors so you can talk with someone who has been through a similar experience and get breastfeeding support
- WIC provides food packages designed specifically for families who are expecting and/or have children under 5
- WIC has breastfeeding professionals who can help women increase their milk supply and make breastfeeding work for them
- WIC can help pregnant women and mothers who want to opt to breastfeed in order to have the security of feeding their infant

Avoid these dangerous practices:

- Using cow's milk before 12 months of age
- Over-diluting formula
- Using homemade formula recipes
- Using recalled formulas

If you are a WIC participant and are having trouble finding formula, check the NYS WIC Vendor Site

<https://nyswicvendors.com/find-a-wic-store/>.

Speak with pharmacy staff and reach out to your local WIC clinic for recommendations on where you can purchase formula.

To learn more and apply for WIC at SCDHS, visit www.suffolkcountyny.gov/WIC



RESOURCES

Q&A Formula Shortage

<https://healthychildren.org/English/tips-tools/ask-the-pediatrician/Pages/Are-there-shortages-of-infant-formula-due-to-COVID-19.aspx>

Find a Milk Bank

<https://www.hmbana.org/find-a-milk-bank/>

Why is there a formula shortage & what can you do?

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/may/18/baby-formula-shortage-why-is-there-none-what-to-do-causes-explained>

Fact Check

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2022/05/20/fact-check-image-boxes-unrelated-baby-formula-shortage/9828237002/>

Finding Formula

<https://www.hhs.gov/formula/index.html>

Mil-Rue Pharmacy is an authorized
WIC vendor that offers free delivery
of formula.

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