

JB Pritzker, Governor

Sameer Vohra, MD, JD, MA, Director

IDPH recommends halting use of recalled Byheart infant formula until further notice after two Illinois infants show symptoms consistent with botulism

Summary and Action Items

1. Two Illinois infants show symptoms consistent with botulism after consuming Byheart powdered infant formula
2. CDC and FDA are [investigating this situation](#) and two lots of the Byheart formula have been [recalled](#).
3. IDPH urges parents and guardians to avoid using the recalled Byheart infant formula till further notice
4. Clinicians who suspect infant botulism should obtain information related to infant formula use and notify [their local health department](#) immediately.

Background

Byheart infant formula has been linked to suspected cases of botulism in two Illinois infants and children in ten states. Botulism is an illness caused by a bacterial toxin, which can produce life-threatening symptoms including muscle weakness, fatigue, and gastrointestinal distress. Botulism can be in foods that look and taste normal, which means consumers cannot inspect food on their own for botulism safety.

On November 8, 2025, ByHeart Inc. recalled two lots of Whole Nutrition Infant Formula:

- Lot: 206VABP/251261P2 ("Use by 01 Dec 2026")
- Lot: 206VABP/251131P2 ("Use by 01 Dec 2026")

Other lots of this infant formula continue to be investigated in relation to this outbreak and further notice regarding additional lot numbers will be issued based on the results of the investigations. ByHeart Whole Nutrition Infant Formula remains available for sale online and at major retailers nationwide and so may still be available for purchase prior to removal of these items from the retail market.

Symptoms of Infant Botulism

- Most infants with infant botulism will initially develop constipation, poor feeding, loss of head control, and difficulty swallowing.
- If untreated, infants with infant botulism experience a progressive, flaccid paralysis that can lead to breathing difficulties and require weeks of hospitalization.

Diagnosis and Treatment

- If you suspect your infant patient has botulism, immediately call 510-231-7600 for case consultation. Consultation is available 24/7.
- You will reach the on-call physician at the [Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program](#) (IBTPP) at the California Department of Public Health.

Illinois Department of Public Health

- The physician will provide a no-cost clinical consultation and release [BabyBIG](#) treatment if the patient's clinical findings indicate infant botulism.
- A stool or enema specimen is required for definitive diagnosis of infant botulism. Enemas should be performed with sterile, non-bacteriostatic water.
- Contact IDPH to facilitate testing through public health laboratories.
- This specialized testing often takes several days to complete and treatment should not be withheld pending suspected cases.
- Report suspect cases to your [local health department](#) or IDPH immediately.

Guidance for Parents/Guardians

- **Do not use recalled infant formula.** Throw it away or return it to where you bought it.
- **Wash items and surfaces** that may have touched the recalled formula using hot soapy water or a dishwasher.
- **Seek immediate health care** if your infant has consumed ByHeart Whole Nutrition Infant Formula and has any of these symptoms:
 - Poor feeding
 - Loss of head control
 - Difficulty swallowing
 - Decreased facial expression

Guidance for businesses

- **Do not sell or use recalled infant formula.**
- **Wash and sanitize items and surfaces** that may have touched recalled formula.

Contact

Additional questions about this recall please contact the Communicable Disease Section at (217) 782-2016.

Target Audience

Infectious Disease Physicians, Family Practice and Internal Medicine Physicians, Pediatricians, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Hospital Emergency Departments, Infection Control Preventionists, Local Health Departments, Schools, and Daycares

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Author

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