

Rep. Larsen's Actions on the Infant Formula Shortage

Families and caregivers in Washington state are experiencing a severe shortage of infant formula after a major formula manufacturer, Abbott Nutrition, issued product recalls and closed a plant in Michigan that manufactured a significant portion of the U.S. infant formula supply; Abbott resumed formula production at its Michigan facility on June 4 after following requirements outlined in a May agreement with the FDA.

Supply chain issues, domestic market consolidation and limitations on imports have exacerbated the shortage.

I am committed to working with my colleagues to increase the supply of infant formula, put products back on shelves and ensure families and caregivers in the Second District have the resources needed for their babies to grow and thrive.

Resources for You

WIC offices may be able to help eligible families find infant formula. WIC office locations are here and below: <https://www.signupwic.com/>

Everett

Pregnancy Aid WIC Outreach Program Silver Lake, (425) 316-8929
SeaMar Community Health Centers Everett WIC Clinic, (425) 252-5303

Marysville

Pregnancy Aid WIC Outreach Program Marysville, (360) 657-4102

Tulalip

Tulalip Health Clinic, (360) 716-5625

Arlington

Pregnancy Aid WIC Outreach Program Arlington, (360) 435-3735

Stanwood

United General District 304 – Stanwood, (360) 854-0435

Langley

Island County Public Health Langley, (360) 221-8880

Manufacturer Hotlines

Gerber's MyGerber Baby Expert: <https://www.gerber.com/mygerber-baby-expert>

Abbott's Consumer Hotline: 1-800-986-8540

Abbott's urgent product request line: <https://abbottnutrition.com/metabolics>

Reckitt's Customer Service line: 1-800 BABY-123 (222-9123)

Community Resources

Locate your nearest Community Action Agency (CAA):

<https://communityactionpartnership.com/find-a-cap/>

United Way's 2-1-1: <https://www.211.org/about-us/your-local-211>

Feeding America: <https://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank>

For participants in Basic Food (SNAP): Visit the Parenthelp123 web page at <http://parenthelp123.org/> or call 1-800-322-2588.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has also released a fact sheet to help families find formula at hhs.gov/formula.

Actions to Improve Access to Infant Formula

- Urged the President to **take actions to increase formula supply and continue a whole-of-government response**, including asking for a review of agency failures that led to the initial Abbott formula recall and encouraging the administration to include formula products in their broader work to address supply chain resiliency.
- Voted for an **emergency supplemental spending bill to provide the Food and Drug Administration with \$28 million to address the shortage**, including by providing resources to prevent fraudulent formula products, acquire better data on the formula marketplace and increase FDA inspection staff.
- Additionally, the President **invoked the Defense Production Act** to ensure formula manufacturers have the necessary ingredients to make safe, healthy infant formula in the United States.
- The President also **announced Operation Fly Formula to speed up the import of infant formula** and start getting more formula to stores as soon as possible. As of June 3, two flights have arrived in the U.S carrying enough formula for 1.5 million 8-ounce bottles. A third flight is expected to carry approximately 3.7 million 8-ounce bottles-worth of formula.

In addition to addressing the current crisis, I am also focused on ensuring a similar shortage does not happen in the future.

- Voted for the ***Access to Baby Formula Act (H.R. 7791)*** to grant the U.S. Department of Agriculture emergency authority to address formula supply chain disruptions and recalls. This bill gives families flexibility with their WIC benefits so they can continue to purchase safe infant formula even during times of crisis that may cause shortages, like supply chain disruptions, public health emergencies or formula recall.
- Support the ***Keep Infant Formula Safe and on the Shelves Act*** to increase the FDA's inspection frequency and reporting for infant formula manufacturing facilities, build a supply infrastructure to ensure safe infant formula is readily available and clarify that the Defense Production Act can be invoked if any food related shortages occur.
- Congress **will continue to examine the infant formula shortage and hold hearings** to hear directly from the Food and Drug Administration and formula manufacturers.