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PRESS RELEASE

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December 23, 2011

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State Health Officials Issue Precautions After Infant Formula Recall

Concord, NH - The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) is advising parents of the voluntary recall of a powdered infant formula following the death of an infant in Missouri. The infant died from a *Cronobacter sakazakii* infection. While the source of this bacteria has not yet been determined, as a precaution, powdered infant formula retailers including Walmart, Supervalu, and Walgreens have pulled Enfamil Newborn formula with the lot number ZP1K7G until tests on the formula are complete.

"We want to exercise the utmost caution while we await the results of the testing and further investigation," said DHHS' Public Health Director Dr. José Montero. "At this time we are advising parents not to use the product with the lot number ZP1K7G until additional information is available."

The bacteria *Cronobacter* can be found naturally in the environment, and has been found in many foods, including powdered infant formula and water. *Cronobacter sakazakii* rarely causes illness in humans; however, it can cause infections in infants including meningitis that can be fatal.

For infants who are fed with powdered infant formula, DHHS continues to recommend careful adherence to infection prevention measures while preparing formula. These include washing your hands with soap and water before preparation, cleaning all feeding equipment in hot, soapy water and preparing formula for just one feeding at a time. The World Health Organization guidelines on safe preparation of powdered infant formula are available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/files/pif_guidelines.pdf

Anyone who has received this formula through NH's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, you can contact your local WIC office or the State WIC office for further assistance.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Federal Drug Administration labs are conducting the tests on the formula and will release new information as soon as it is available.

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