June 2022

Information for Caregivers

Infant Formula Shortage





WIC Office Locations

cumberlandcountync.gov/wic

Public Health 910-433-3730

1235 Ramsey Street Fayetteville, NC 28301 **Spring Lake WIC 910-321-6420**

103 Laketree Blvd. Spring Lake, NC 28390 Hope Mills WIC 910-433-3760

2622 Hope Mills Road Fayetteville, NC 28306



Transitioning Between Infant Formulas		
Q: What's the difference between Gerber® Good Start® formulas and other brand infant formulas?	A: All infant formulas in the United States meet the same strict nutrition guidelines and nutritional standards set forth by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). There are often only small differences between each formula, and most infants can transition easily between different formulas and brands.	
Q: What's the difference between Gerber® Good Start® Soy and other soy based infant formulas?	A: All infant formulas in the United States meet the same strict nutrition guidelines and nutritional standards set forth by the FDA. Gerber Good Start Soy and other soy based infant formulas are very similar; they are both made from soy protein. Most infants can transition easily between different formulas and brands.	
Q: Why is this change happening?	A: Due to the nationwide infant formula shortage, the NC WIC Program has been granted temporary flexibility to expand the infant formulas available for WIC Participants. By temporarily expanding formula choices this will help WIC families purchase formula that is available in their local stores, if the standard formula is not available.	
Q: Does it matter what kind of formula I give my baby?	A: All infant formulas in the United States meet the same strict nutrition guidelines and nutritional standards set forth by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Babies generally do well on any iron fortified formula.	
Q: Can I just switch to the new formula in one day?	A: Yes. The American Academy of Pediatrics says that when changing from one formula to another, the change can almost always be made in a short period of time.	
Q: Can I have a few cans of formula to try?	A: The WIC program does not provide sample containers of formula.	
Q: What is the best way to feed my baby formula?	A: Follow the instructions as indicated on the product label or from your health care provider.	
Q: What if I try to make the change, but my baby won't take a new/different product?	A: Every baby is different. If your baby is rejecting the new/different product, discuss the situation with your health care provider and follow their recommendations.	
Q: Will I see any changes in my baby when starting a new product?	A: It's not likely that you will see changes in your infant when starting a new formula. All standard, FDA-approved infant formula products are very similar to one another. To ensure a smooth transition, follow the instructions as indicated on the product label.	



Transitioning Between Infant Formulas (continued)		
Q: Why does my baby have a change in stools?	A: A change in an infant's bowel pattern and stool may happen with a change in infant formula. If you are concerned about your baby's changes, you should discuss your concerns with your health care provider.	
Q: Why does my baby spit up more on the new formula?	A: Some babies may burp or spit-up a little more than usual during a formula change, but this should improve over time. If you are concerned about your baby's changes, you should discuss your concerns with your health care provider.	
Q: What if my baby is allergic to the new formula?	A: It is not likely that your baby will be allergic to the new formula. Standard milk and soy-based formulas have similar ingredients. If you are concerned about your baby's changes, you should discuss your concerns with your health care provider.	
Q: My baby doesn't like this formula. She makes an awful face when I offer it to her.	A: Making a face when a new food is introduced is normal. The new formula may have a different smell and taste than the formula you had been feeding your baby. It may take a week or more for your baby to adjust to the taste of the new formula.	
Q: My baby doesn't like this formula. He doesn't finish his bottle but then wants to eat more often. What should I do?	A: Older babies (6 months old and up) may start to drink less per feeding and eat solid foods more often throughout the day. This is normal. Partial bottles of formula should not be returned to the refrigerator for later feeding. You may want to prepare less formula per bottle. And always follow the instructions as indicated on the product label for preparation, storage and feeding guidelines.	
Q: Why does my new formula seem thinner/thicker than what I was using before?	A: You may notice that the consistency of formulas is thinner/thicker than the brand you were using. Different brands of standard milk-based and soy-based formulas may have some differences in consistency. Standard, FDA approved products provide the nutrition your baby needs. Always follow the instructions as indicated on the product label for preparation, storage and feeding guidelines.	
Q: I notice that my baby's new formula separates into layers in the refrigerator. Has it gone bad?	A: Formula that has been prepared and refrigerated may separate into layers. This is normal. Shaking the bottle will re-mix the formula. Always follow the instructions as indicated on the product label for preparation, storage and feeding guidelines.	



Breastfeeding Information		
Q: What should I do if I'm getting ready to deliver my baby?	A: Consider breastfeeding. Breastmilk is the healthiest and safest option for all infants. We encourage you to enroll in the Breastfeeding Peer Counseling program. During pregnancy, talk with the Local WIC agency staff and after you've had your baby, ask for lactation support. Meet with lactation consultants and WIC staff to support your breastfeeding goals and navigate services after delivery.	
	 Ask your OB/GYN and pediatrician provider: What kind of lactation support do you provide new parents? Where can I get breastfeeding support and how often can I access services? In the hospital: 	
	 After delivery, ask for a lactation consultant to meet with you. Ask medical staff to help you with breastfeeding—they are there to help! If enrolled in the BFPC, notify your PC when you have delivered your baby so they can support you 	
	WIC is here to support you during your breastfeeding journey and will work with you achieve your breastfeeding goals.	
	Participant Resource: Considering Breastfeeding? Considering Breastfeeding? Spanish	
Q: Can I increase breastfeeding and provide less formula?	A: Yes! WIC staff can work with families who would like to increase breastfeeding frequency to reduce dependence on infant formula. Offering the breast or pumping more often, will help increase milk supply and decrease need for infant formula. You can enroll in the WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program today for assistance with making more breastmilk.	
	Participant Resource: Making More Milk	
Q: Can I use breastmilk from a friend who has extra?	A: Yes. If you have a trusted source with excess available breastmilk to donate. The breastmilk will not be pasteurized, nor will it be tested like the human donor milk from the Milk Bank. Purchasing or receiving breastmilk from an unknown source (such as via the internet) is NOT recommended.	



Shopping List and Food Benefits		
Q: What kind of formulas can I get with my WIC benefits if I can't find the kind usually buy?	A: The NC WIC Program is temporarily adding the following formula items to the Approved Product List: Additional Formula Options for WIC Families WIC Temporary Formula Options Additional Formula Options for WIC Participants - Gerber Products Additional Formula Options for WIC Participants - Gerber Products (Spanish)	
Q: Will WIC vendors have formulas in stock during this shortage?	A: Vendors and manufacturers along with federal and state governments are working hard to keep formula in stock during this difficult time. If your usual WIC vendor does not have the formula, you are looking for, you may need to try another vendor in your area. For more support finding the formula, contact your local WIC office.	
Q: Are most formulas packaged the same way?	A: The packaging for each product is different depending upon brand, size and whether it is a liquid or a powder.	
Q: What if I need formula that is Kosher? What if I need formula that is Halal?	A: There are symbols or text on the formula label to show whether a product is Kosher or Halal.	
Q: How will I know about changes to the type of formula I can buy at the store?	A: Messages will be sent out through the Bnft® app or through Teletask as we are able. Please use the Bnft® app to check your shopping list to see if an item is part of your benefits. You can also scan items at the grocery store to see if an item is part of your food benefit package. You can also call your local WIC agency with any questions. For help downloading the Bnft app: Bnft App English Bnft App Spanish A push notification about NC WIC Gerber formula expansion was sent via the eWIC Bnft® app Tuesday, May 31, 2022.	
	A state-wide text message was sent via Teletask Health Messenger to participants Wednesday, June 1, 2022.	



Helpful Links		
NC Waivers Submitted to FNS	https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/infant-formula-waiver-status	
Resources for Families and Health Care Providers	https://www.ncdhhs.gov/formula	
Formula Shortage Questionnaire	Infant Formula Shortage Questionnaire Link:	
Please fill out Tuesdays and Thursdays by 5 pm	<u>Infant Formula Shortage Questionnaire</u>	
Additional infant feeding	https://www.ncdhhs.gov/formula	
resources	Information and handouts on formula types and brands, information for healthcare providers and information for parents and caregivers.	
	Additional Formula Options for WIC Families	
	WIC Temporary Formula Options	
	Additional Formula Options for WIC Participants - Gerber Products Additional Formula Options for WIC Participants - Gerber Products (Spanish)	
	Infant Formula Fact Sheet for Families	
	Infant Formula Fact Sheet for Families (Spanish)	
	Infant Nutrition and Feeding The WIC Infant Feeding Guide is for staff who provide nutrition education and counseling to the parents and guardians of infants who participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). It provides an overview of basic subjects related to infant nutrition and feeding and answers common questions on the nutritional needs of infants; the development of feeding skills; breastfeeding and formula feeding.	



Communications from Community Nutrition Services Section		
Sender: Date, Time	Subject / Attachment(s)	
Sherry Ebner: Wed 5/11/2022 4:52 PM	FDA Takes Important Steps to Improve Supply of Infant and Specialty Formula Products	
Mary Anne Burghardt: Fri 5/13/2022 7:16 PM	Infant Formula	
Mary Anne Burghardt: Fri 5/13/2022 7:18 PM	White House Infant Formula Factsheet Attachment: Fact Sheet	
Mary Anne Burghardt: Mon 5/16/2022 8:59 PM	Infant Formula Status Update Attachments: Memo for Providers (do not distribute) WPM Chapter 7, Attachment 3 Interim WPM Chapter 7, Section 5 Interim Regarding allowing multiple formula orders from healthcare professional for WIC participants	
Mary Anne Burghardt: Fri 5/20/2022 3:47 PM	Infant Formula Shortage Update	
Sherry Ebner: Thu 5/26/2022 5:10 PM	Infant Formula Shortage Questionnaire	
Sherry Ebner: Fri 5/27/2022 7:02 PM	Temporary Infant Formula Flexibility- Expansion of Contract Products Available Attachment: Formula Flexibility Guidance LWD_5.27.22.pdf Regarding additions of Gerber Products and Sizes to Approved Product List	
Wyatt Jordan: Fri 5/27/2022 7:47 PM	Temporary Expansion of Gerber WIC Approved Infant Formula Products Attachment: Vendor Memo	
Sherry Ebner: Fri 6/3/2022 5:01 PM	Temporary Infant Formula Flexibility- Expansion of Non-Contract Products Available Attachments: Temporary Infant Formula Flexibility Guidance6.3.22.pdf Regarding additions of Non-Contract Products and Sizes to Approved Product List	
Wyatt Jordan: Fri 6/3/2022 6:36 PM	Temporary Expansion of Non-Gerber Infant Formula Products Attachments: Memo for Temporary Expansion of Non-Gerber Infant Formula Products.pdf Non-Gerber Infant Formula List.pdf	



Additional Formula Options for WIC Families: Gerber Products

To support families during the infant formula shortage, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is making it easier for WIC participants to purchase more types of formula. Beginning May 31, 2022, the North Carolina WIC Program will issue benefits for more sizes of Gerber formula and add two more Gerber formula products. These changes will help families buy the formula that is available in stores throughout the shortage.

The NC WIC Program is temporarily adding the following items to the Approved Product List:

- Gerber Good Start GentlePro Powder 20 oz. and 32 oz. can sizes
- Gerber Good Start Gentle Supreme A2 20 oz. size
- NAN 1 Pro Infant Powder 12.7 oz. and 28.2 oz. sizes
- Gerber Good Start SoothePro Powder 19.4 oz and 30.6 oz can sizes
- Gerber Good Start Soy Powder 20 oz. sizes

This means that WIC families may choose different can sizes of the formula listed on their Shopping List. More than one can size may be chosen in the same shopping trip if the can equivalent does not exceed the number of cans remaining on the Shopping List. Larger cans will use more of your benefits because they make more formula. Food benefits for infant formula may be redeemed as indicated below:

- ONE CAN = any can smaller than 28 oz.
- TWO CANS = any can greater than 28 oz.

Powdered Formula Types and Sizes	Number of Cans Used Towards Your Shopping List Balance
Gerber Good Start Gentle Powder	
Gerber Good Start Gentle Powder 12.7 oz.	1 can
Gerber Good Start GentlePro Powder 20 oz.	1 can
Gerber Good Start GentlePro Powder 32 oz.	2 cans
Gerber Good Start Gentle Supreme A2 20 oz.	1 can
NAN 1 Pro Infant Powder 12.7 oz.	1 can
NAN 1 Pro Infant Powder 28.2 oz.	2 cans
Gerber Good Start SoothePro Powder	
Gerber Good Start SoothePro Powder 12.4 oz.	1 can
Gerber Good Start SoothePro Powder 19.4 oz.	1 can
Gerber Good Start SoothePro Powder 30.6 oz.	2 can
Gerber Good Start Soy Powder	
Gerber Good Start Soy Powder 12.9 oz.	1 can
Gerber Good Start Soy Powder 20 oz.	1 can
Gerber Good Start GentlePro Powder 12.7 oz.	1 can

Examples:

If your Shopping List says 5 cans Gerber Good Start Gentle, you could choose:

A.

two 32-ounce cans (counts as 4 cans) plus one 12.7-ounce can (counts as 1 can)

В.

Three 20 oz. cans (counts as 3 cans) plus Two 12.7 oz. cans (counts as 2 cans)

C.

One 32 oz. can (counts as 2 cans) plus Two 20 oz. cans (counts as 2 cans) plus One 12.7 oz. can (counts as 1 can)

Tips Before You Shop:

- Ask your <u>local WIC office</u> how these options work for you.
- Scan the product with your NC WIC Bnft® App to confirm it is the correct item before checking out at the register.
- If you have a problem at the register with the new WIC formula options, talk to a manager before paying.
- Remember that you can redeem your benefits during multiple shopping trips. If your store has fewer cans than the number listed on your Shopping List, purchase what you can when you see the formula your infant needs.

Additional formula can sizes and types may become available soon. Please check with your local WIC office, online at www.ncdhhs.gov/formula, or the NC WIC Bnft® App for the latest updates.



Additional Formula Options for WIC Families

To support families during the infant formula shortage, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is making it easier for WIC participants to purchase more types of formula. On May 31, 2022, the North Carolina WIC Program began issuing benefits for more sizes of Gerber formula and two additional Gerber formula products. Effective June 6, 2022, NC WIC is making even more formula brands and types available to WIC families that can be purchased at the store when approved Gerber products are not readily available. These changes will help families buy the formula that is available in stores throughout the shortage.

WIC families can temporarily **mix and match** formula brands and sizes equivalent to those indicated on their Shopping List up to their food benefit balance. Use the table below to determine the equivalent formula options temporarily available if food benefits list (1) Gerber Good Start GentlePro Powder, (2) Gerber Good Start Gentle Soy Powder, or (3) Gerber Good Start SoothePro Powder. Reminder: *Use your Bnft® App to scan products to see if they are approved*.

<u>A full list of product options and sizes is available online</u>. In addition, the following examples will help you understand these additional options. Remember that food benefits for infant formula may be redeemed as:

- ONE CAN = any can smaller than 28 oz.
- TWO CANS = any can greater than 28 oz.

Example 1

If Gerber Good Start Gentle Soy powder is listed on your Shopping List, you would be able to purchase: Gentle Gerber Good Start Soy, Similac Soy Isomil Powder, Enfamil ProSobee Powder, Parent's Choice Soy Powder, or UP & UP Soy Infant Powder. If Gerber Good Start Gentle Soy Powder is listed on your Shopping List, you cannot purchase formulas under the Gerber Good Start GentlePro or Gerber Good Start SoothePro sections on the table.

Example 2

If your Shopping List says 6 cans Gerber Good Start Soy, but the product is not available at the retailer, you could choose:

Two 20-ounce cans Gerber Good Start Soy Powder (counts as 2 cans)

One 12.9-ounce can Enfamil ProSobee Powder (counts as 1 can)

One 20.9-ounce can Enfamil ProSobee Powder (counts as 1 can)

One 36-ounce can UP & UP Soy Infant Formula (counts as 2 cans)

Example 3

If your Shopping List says 6 cans Gerber Good Start Soothe but the product is not available at the retailer, you could choose:

One 19.9-ounce can Enfamil Gentleease Powder (counts as 1 can)

One 27.4-ounce can Enfamil NeuroPro Gentlease Powder (counts as 1 can) One 29.0-ounce can Enfamil Enspire Gentlease Powder (counts as 2 cans) One 29.8-ounce can Similac PRO-Total Comfort Powder (counts as 2 cans)

When approved Gerber products are available at the store, continue to purchase those products to keep your baby's feeding consistent. If the formula listed on your Shopping List is not available, please take advantage of these additional formula options. These additional formula options for WIC families are expected to be in place while the formula shortage lasts.

To ensure a smooth transition between formulas, follow the instructions as indicated on the product label. Most infants can transition easily between different formulas and brands, but If you are concerned about your baby, you should discuss your concerns with your health care provider. Tips for a smooth transition between formulas:

- Try slowly introducing small amounts of the new formula by mixing it with your regular formula. Slowly increase the amount of the new formula over time.
- Be patient, since it may take some time for your baby to get used to it.
- If your baby is vomiting, has gas pains, is crying or can't be calmed down during feedings, is losing weight, has diarrhea, has blood or mucus in their poop, or is straining to poop, they may not be tolerating the new formula.
- Call your pediatrician or other health care provider if you have questions.

Tips Before You Shop:

- Ask your local WIC office how these options work for you.
- Scan the product with your NC WIC Bnft® App to confirm it is the correct item before checking out at the register.
- If you have a problem at the register with the new WIC formula options, talk to a manager before paying.
- Remember that you can redeem your benefits during multiple shopping trips. If your store has fewer cans than the number listed on your Shopping List, purchase what you can when you see the formula your infant needs.

Please check with your local WIC office, online at www.ncdhhs.gov/formula, or the NC WIC Bnft® App for the latest updates.



WIC Temporary Formula Options (June 2022)

www.ncdhhs.gov/formula

ONE CAN = any can smaller than 28 oz. | TWO CANS = any can greater than 28 oz. TO CALCULATE YOUR WIC BENEFITS WITH ADDITIONAL AVAILABLE SIZES:

WIC Contract Formula



Gerber Good Start Gentle Powder

Available in 12.7 oz, 20 oz, 32 oz

ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY FORMULA OPTIONS WHEN GERBER PRODUCTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE





Gerber Good Start SoothePro Powder

Available in 12.4 oz, 19.4 oz, 30.6 oz

ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY FORMULA OPTIONS WHEN GERBER PRODUCTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE



Enfamil Gentleease Powder 12.4 oz, 19.9 oz, 27.7 oz



Enfamil NeuroPro Gentlease 19.5 oz, 27.4 oz, 30.4 oz Powder



Gentlease Powder Enfamil Enspire 29.0 oz





Similac Total Comfort Powder 12.6 oz



Similac PRO-Total **Comfort Powder** 29.8 oz



Gentle*

Complete Comfort Parent's Choice 22.5 oz, 29.8 oz

Parent's Choice Gentle Powder

12 oz, 21.5 oz, 34 oz



Up & Up Gentle Powder 21.5 oz



Earth's Best Organic Sensitivity



23.2 oz, 35 oz



Earth's Best Organic Gentle



Similac Sensitive Powder 12.5 oz, 29.8 oz



Similac Pro Sensitive Powder 29.8 oz



Similac 360 Total Care **Sensitive Powder**



Sensitive Powder Enfamil NeuroPro 29.4 oz



Parent's Choice Sensitive 12.0 oz



Gerber Good Start Soy Powder

Available in 12.9 oz, 20 oz

ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY FORMULA OPTIONS WHEN GERBER PRODUCTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE



Similac Soy Isomil Powder 12.4 oz



Enfamil ProSobee Powder 12.9 oz, 20.9 oz



Parent's Choice Soy Infant Formula



UP & UP Soy Infant Formula