June 30, 2022

Dear Health Care Provider:

Re: Infant Formula Shortage

There have been many recent media articles on the powdered infant formula shortage that is mostly affecting the United States. Canada has not seen a shortage of the regular infant formula. However, some specialized infant formulas for babies with allergies are currently difficult to find.

When assisting clients on formula choices, health professionals can refer to Use of Specialized Infant Formula during a Shortage Decision Tree (Health Canada, with input from Canadian Pediatric Society, Canadian Pharmacists Association, Food Allergy Canada, Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Dietitians of Canada, Hospital for Sick Children and McMaster Children’s Hospital).

A provincial working group has been convened to coordinate the response to the shortage of specialized infant formulas in Manitoba and will update healthcare providers through Shared Health and Manitoba Health communications channels.

Healthcare providers with questions can contact Population.PublicHealth@gov.mb.ca for more information.

Key messages for parents/ caregivers

Health Canada has developed Information for Families during the shortage of Formula for Infants with Food Allergies.

Information has been developed about the powdered infant formula shortage in the U.S., its effect in Canada, and strategies for families should they be unable to obtain their baby’s formula in the future. This information is posted on Healthy Parenting Winnipeg (Is there a powdered infant formula shortage in Canada? Myths, facts and suggestions • Healthy Parenting Winnipeg).

We will continue to monitor this situation and will update Healthy Parenting Winnipeg as needed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brent Roussin,  
Chief Provincial Public Health Officer

Dr. Jazz Atwal,  
Deputy Chief Provincial Public Health Officer